



EURASIA FOUNDATION

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Mid Year Report**

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I. Introduction



Introduction

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Overview

In the past year, a number of countries have taken steps to place greater controls over foreign NGOs operating in their country. The most extreme case is Uzbekistan, where the government's increasing controls over our work and the threat of criminal prosecution of our staff for unfounded charges finally persuaded us to close the Tashkent office and to try to operate the local program out of a neighboring country. Unfortunately, scrutiny of our work has also intensified in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

We seem to have weathered, better than expected, the bogus "spy" scandal surrounding British Government funding of our media program in Russia. Nevertheless, we pay a price for this press smear by the FSB in Russia. Negative articles about the foundation have appeared in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Siberia and these are only the articles that have been called to our attention. The central theme of all of these articles is that EF's work is somehow connected to US intelligence objectives and we are undermining the security of the host state.

Accomplishments

During the first half of FY06, the Foundation made 94 grants, provided technical assistance and operated programs in the areas of civil society, private enterprise development, and public policy and administration.

Despite a very difficult environment in several countries in the first half of FY06, the foundation managed to record several major accomplishments including:

- Launching a new regional foundation, the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia. Trustee and former Congressman Bill Frenzel traveled to Bishkek to chair the first meeting of the board and returned inspired by the quality of the individuals recruited to serve on the new board. Our Vice President for Central Asia, Andy Wilson, and his team obtained pledges from seven governments and about 20 corporations amounting to \$2 million from non-core sources last year alone to match the USG pledge of \$3 million per year for three years.
- The EF-founded project, the Economics Education Research Consortium (EERC), have been functioning as independent institutions in Russia and Ukraine for over 2 years. In March 2006, Regina Yan, who represents EF on the board and serves as co-chair, succeeded in negotiating a \$10 million

pledge from the Pinchuk Foundation of Ukraine to support the EERC program over the next decade.

- In Russia, the grant agreement to the New Eurasia Foundation (FNE) was converted into a donation agreement, with the necessary compliance safeguards. This effort involved negotiations with our Moscow colleagues over many months as well as consultations with USAID and several attorneys. We are hoping that this conversion to a donation instrument will mitigate the potential profit tax liability on the funds under the original grant agreement which the Russian government refused to register and qualify for the tax exemption.
- In Moldova, the Foundation worked on the final negotiations for a donation of \$1 million over a three-year period from the Swedish government to manage a coalition of NGOs in that country. We also expect to be the primary implementing organization for the threshold program to help Moldova meet the necessary requirements to receive a compact from the Millennium Challenge Corporation. These successes are a great tribute to the excellent work of our of our field offices.
- In the Caucasus, despite a very difficult budget environment, EF will receive an increased level of USAID funding for Armenia and Georgia. Unfortunately, the funding decrease for Azerbaijan creates a funding imbalance that threatens our very successful cross border program.
- In the Middle East, last winter we received a \$513,000 grant from the State Department to help design and launch a foundation similar to the Eurasia Foundation in that region. Several EF staff have already completed on time several large project deliverables, and State has since expanded the scope of the assignment several times. The solid work our staff has turned out to date is a tribute to their hard work and professionalism.

Localization Update

The Caucasus

The localization strategy in the South Caucasus was publicly announced in November 2005 during the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in each capital city. A concept paper was simultaneously distributed to the US government and potential donors; we are in ongoing conversations with many of them now. In mid-March, staff from all three countries gathered in Gudauri to improve the regional network and to identify methods of strengthening regional communications in the context of localization.

EF seeks \$18 million over three years from USAID to develop a network of locally-registered independent foundations in the South Caucasus. This network (comprising of one foundation each in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) would be supported by a public-private alliance, including donors from the US, Europe, international

development agencies, and the corporate sector. Network foundations would share a goal to develop private enterprise, strengthen civil society, improve public administration and promote independent media across the South Caucasus region. They would also share select areas of programming, focused on:

- enhancing domestic capacity for professional monitoring and evaluation
- building domestic capacity for effective public policy reform
- encouraging growth in local philanthropy, and
- promoting cross-border cooperation and confidence building

Based on EF's history of successful partnerships with a variety of international funding agencies, EF anticipates raising substantial matching funds from private and public sector sources, ultimately creating a diverse enough non-USG funding base for the foundations to support themselves on an ongoing basis within 5-10 years. EF hopes to raise an additional \$10 million in support for the foundations from other sources, including, the EU, individual bilateral donors, and corporate sector sponsors. A lead commitment from the USG will enable EF to pursue matching funds most effectively.

Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus

In June 2006, EF submitted a concept paper to the Coordinator's Office for creating an East European Development Foundation (EEDF). Seated in Kyiv, the EEDF will implement a diverse but interconnected portfolio of local, national and international programs to extend EF's work of the past 14 years. EEDF will focus on three mandate areas: citizen participation in governance, constituency building and cross-sector cooperation, and local development. Cross-cutting themes will include anti-corruption, responsive governance, and developing a new cadre of young leaders.

In order to achieve tangible results and gain broad support for its programs in Ukraine, EEDF will capitalize on programmatic synergies by working on the local, national and international levels. Each level will rely on an integrated approach—providing technical assistance, building constituencies for change through coalitions and expert groups, awarding sub-grants to key implementing partners, and offering independent analysis to reach its goals—and will emphasize public administration reform and civil society development.

One of EEDF's initial programs will be to launch the Eurasia Foundation of Moldova (EFM), whose aim will be to promote Moldova's sustainable democratic development as it looks to join the European Union. EFM will be the first foundation of its kind in Moldova (and only the second registered grant making foundation in Moldova), making it a significant player in Moldova's budding civil society and a key partner for EEDF's long-term program strategy.

EEDF will provide cross-border assistance to Belarus focusing on two types of activities. First, it will assist Belarusians – especially emerging leaders in government, business, and civil society – access to international networks for reform. Second, the EEDF will assist Belarusian organizations which share our vision but

have been forced to work in exile, such as *EHU International* in Vilnius. The locally-registered New Eurasia Establishment in Belarus will continue to implement programs within its mandate, independent of EEDF for the foreseeable future.

Plans are underway to launch the EEDF in FY07. FY07 Plans in each country, described in detail below, are an integrated part of our localization strategy in the region.

II. Development Update



Development Update

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Non-US Government Fundraising

The Eurasia Foundation's fundraising goal for contributions from non-US government sources in FY06 is \$6.25 million. During the first half of FY06 (October 2005–March 2006), we secured \$3.84 million, which equals about percent of the goal for the entire fiscal year. This figure includes 96 percent in direct contributions (as opposed to leveraged donations).

A breakdown of non-US government commitments, both leveraged and direct, is as follows:

Country/Project	FY06 Goal	First Half Total
Armenia	\$450,000	\$0
Azerbaijan	\$400,000	\$343,821
Georgia	\$500,000	\$285,714
SCCP	\$300,000	\$0
CRRC	\$2,300,000	\$2,000,000
Kazakhstan	\$800,000	\$737,812
Kyrgyz Republic	\$150,000	\$14,249
Uzbekistan	\$200,000	\$0
Tajikistan	\$150,000	\$9,500
Ukraine	\$550,000	\$398,921
Belarus	\$50,000	\$20,000
Moldova	\$400,000	\$0
Unrestricted	\$0	\$31,047
TOTALS	\$6,250,000	\$3,841,064

Non-Core US Government Fundraising

In addition to the non-US government fundraising listed above, EF has raised \$1,588,922 in non-core US government funds during the first half of FY06. This total includes the following awards:

- \$650,000 in direct funding from the US Department of State to support the Iran Regional Third Sector Initiative (IRTSI)
- \$512,962 in direct funding from the US Department of State to support the design and launch of a foundation for the Middle East
- \$382,000 in direct funding from the USAID Global Development Alliance program to support the creation of an MS degree program in Environmental

Management and Engineering in Kazakhstan (the proposal has been approved for funding; the agreement is pending)

Fundraising Activities by Region

Central Asia

In Kazakhstan, EF has created several multi-year partnerships with international corporate donors. AES Corporation has provided \$375,000 in support of years 3-5 of the Master's of Science in Environmental Management and Engineering program, bringing their total support of the program to \$525,000. Oral confirmation has been received that, in addition to the \$62,000 awarded in December 2005, Chevron Corporation will provide \$140,000 to EF to support the Kazakhstan Artisan Initiative.

Rather than seeking new funds, EF's focus in Uzbekistan has been to negotiate the continuation of current donor-supported programs and to transfer implementation to the Almaty office.

With the launch of EFCA, EF staff in the Kyrgyz Republic has been working on developing several proposals to be submitted by EFCA. These include: a proposal requesting funding from OSI on labor migration in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia; and a proposal requesting continued funding from the British Embassy to support independent media development in the Ferghana Valley.

EF Tajikistan may receive funding from the US government for two large projects. First, EF joined as a sub a proposal by AES to the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) for development of the power sector in Tajikistan. A decision is expected soon, and if positive EF would receive approximately \$200,000 in funding. Additionally, EF has learned that its \$400,000 Disabled Persons Empowerment Project has been short listed and is now being reviewed by USAID in DC.

Caucasus

In Azerbaijan, implementation has begun on the British government funded YouthBank initiative, which aims to create opportunities for youth-led groups to address social needs, participate as active citizens in their communities and develop professional governance and management skills. Additionally, EF Azerbaijan has signed an agreement with the Norwegian government for \$150,000 to implement the second year of the Small Grants Program.

CRRC was awarded a \$2 million grant renewal from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which provides an additional two years of core funding for the program.

EF Armenia prepared a description of several cross-border project concepts for discussion with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNDP. The NRC's new

mandate in Armenia will focus specifically on improving economic and social cooperation between Armenia, Georgia and Turkey.

In November SCCP submitted a concept paper to the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) on "Promoting Civil Sector Participation in the Dialogue on EU Integration." Since then, discussions with DFID have been very promising and a final proposal will be submitted shortly.

EF Georgia has received \$285,714 from UNDP for second-year funding for the Pipeline Monitoring and Dialogue Initiative. Discussions are currently underway with BP and UNDP regarding follow-on activities for the second cycle.

Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova

In Ukraine, EF has raised \$100,000 from Altria/Philip Morris to support a project on Sustainable Solutions for the Needs of Disabled People in the Kharkiv Oblast. Funding has also been received from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy for the second phase of its *Vox Populi* initiative and from the OSCE, which has provided a third year of funding for the Local Economic Development (LEaD) program and first year funding for the Local Economic Partnership (LEaP) program.

In Moldova, fundraising activities have focused on finalizing support of the Moldova Citizen Oversight Initiative, a three-year program which will promote and enhance public engagement on issues such as poverty reduction, democratic and free elections, European integration and fighting corruption. EF has requested \$1,000,000 from SIDA and \$100,000 from the Norwegian government and is in final negotiations with both donors.

EF's Belarus office received \$172,260 in supplemental funding from USAID in response to a proposal submitted requesting funding for a legal clinic support program, which EF will implement in cooperation with ABA/CEELI.

III. The Grantmaking and Operating Programs, Evaluation and Grant Results



Armenia FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$691,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Armenia through 11 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Armenia highlights include:

- During the first half of the year we closed several projects from the “Sustainable Models of CBO” competition. Projects implemented by the Goris Youth Union and the Martuni Women’s Council showed outstanding results in introducing innovative models of financial sustainability for CBOs. They also helped us to shape our new program on developing resource centers for community-based organizations. Projects promoting the distribution of print media in the regions, inter-municipal networking and alternative dispute resolution in the country were also continued during this period. In the first half of the year we have made several grants to support *Armenian-Turkish cross-border cooperation and dialogue* as well as *anti-corruption* activities in the country. These new programs were introduced in FY06. Both programs are highly demanded in the country. They have increased the profile of the EF-Armenia among key stakeholders and the donor community.
- Increasingly EF-Armenia is moving to the implementation of operating activities. A major event for the past period included an international anti-corruption conference organized by EF-Armenia in cooperation with the National Assembly of Armenia, UNDP and OSCE. The conference attracted the attention of a large number of stakeholders, including the Government of Armenia, the U.S. Embassy, representatives of the international community and the media. The results of the conference will be used for adjusting our program strategy in this area.
- As a part of EF Armenia’s strategy for the coming years we have developed a new methodology for supporting the implementation of institutional development (ID) grants. The DOC (Development of Organizational Capacities) approach will allow us to implement a targeted capacity development program for ID grantees, thus increasing their organizational and programmatic sustainability. The DOC method will be used for other EF Armenia programs areas as appropriate. During the first half of FY06, we conducted a training needs assessment (evaluation) for the staff of municipalities and communities involved in the inter-municipal network program. The results of this assessment will help us design a more efficient training program to strengthen the human capacities of the inter-municipal networks. In the area of Social Investment/Corporate Social Responsibility we

- commissioned a comprehensive study on the current practices and motivations for social investment among the business community of the country. We will be using the results of this assessment for our upcoming Corporate Social Investment program.
- During the first half of the year, EF developed and strengthened its cooperation and coordination with several organizations working in Armenia. In particular, we signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) for cooperation within the framework of municipal development and the CBO resource center program and with the Armenia Village Operation (AVO) for work together in community and youth development. In addition, EF has also signed an MOU with the New Eurasia Foundation in Russia to cooperate on a program assisting labor migrants from Armenia in Russia.

Selected FY06 EF Armenia Grants

- *The International Center for Human Development (ICHD):* The goal of the project is to promote cross-border cooperation and dialogue through implementation of Armenian -Turkish Track to Diplomacy (T2D) projects. The project will conduct (1) an analysis of Armenian-Turkish T2D projects conducted since 2001 and the development of a handbook on best practices in T2D projects; (2) an evaluation of MANEC I [a project for the creation of a web site that links farmers in eastern Turkey and western Armenia regions]; and (3) a feasibility study for MANEC II. The results of the feasibility study will lay the ground for the decision on whether to support the implementation of MANEC II at a later date. The project will result in an improved understanding among stakeholders of the factors that contribute to the success or lack of success among T2D projects, of the achievements of MANEC I, and of the potential for MANEC II to succeed.
- *Achilles Society for the Defense of Drivers' Rights:* The goal of the proposed project is to strengthen public monitoring over the work of traffic police. In order to achieve this goal, a hot-line will be organized to provide legal consultation and support to traffic participants. A database will be developed based on the received calls. The NGO will also organize a round table at the end of the project to introduce the analysis of collected data and the focus-group survey. Recommendations on necessary legislative changes will be developed based on the results. The project will lead to an increased awareness among traffic participants, thus reducing corruption risks in the sphere.
- *Goris Youth Union:* Although a large number of CBOs have been formed throughout Armenia, these groups are often highly donor-dependent and do not have well-developed relationships with local government, the private sector and other NGOs. In order to promote a more optimal and shared use of local resources in addressing community needs and to pilot a model for improving the financial sustainability of community-based organizations, the Goris Youth Union established a partnership network between CBOs, local

government, and the private sector and implemented community development activities initiated by the members of the partnership network. As a result of the project, a Partnership and Collaboration Network of 25 communities was established and members of the network were trained to identify and address the local needs. The skills of 70 representatives of the network in needs assessment, strategic planning and fund raising were developed. The grantee implemented a successful lobbying campaign to establish a CBO support fund within the municipal budget. As a result, 7 member communities of the network succeeded in securing donor funds and community contributions totaling \$213,000 for community projects including the renovation of kindergartens, the rehabilitation of water and irrigation systems and the renovation of culture centers.

FY06 Evaluations

In FY 06 EF Armenia has conducted one assessment and one external evaluation of its programs. “Sociometer” NGO evaluated EF Armenia’s Municipal Information Analytical Centers (MIAC). Its main findings were that the effective work of local government in Armenia is highly dependent on the ability of local government employees to use software systems for budget management, population registry, general administration, and document processing.

EF Armenia also conducted its own assessment of the training needs of local government employees in those municipalities where inter-community unions were established. This assessment demonstrated that in addition to better computer skills, local government employees would also like to increase their understanding of legislation related to local governance.

EF Armenia has contracted with Armenia to conduct a baseline survey of the current social investment practices of medium and large-sized businesses in Armenia. This assessment will provide EF Armenia with information that will help it develop a strategy for expanding the social investment practices of local businesses. In the area of cross-border trade, EF Armenia is supporting three ongoing research studies. The first study, by International Center for Human Development (ICHD), is assessing best practices in track-two diplomacy projects. The other two studies are being carried out by the Armenian International Policy Research Group (AIPRG). They will examine the impact of a border reopening between Armenia and Turkey on local government structures in border communities as well as the impact on different sectors of the economy and the workforce.

Plans for FY07

In its strategy for FY 06-08, EF Armenia originally identified nine program areas in which it would work over the next three years. In FY 07, EF Armenia plans on consolidating some of these program areas so that its strategy consists of six program areas with one cross-cutting initiative, the Development of Organizational Capacities

(DOC). The decision to consolidate some of the program areas (Local Government and Social Partnership into Local Governance Development and Youth Development and Resource Centers for Community Development [RCCD] into Community and Youth Development) was made in order to simplify the strategy for external stakeholders and to facilitate linkages between related program areas.

- *Community and Youth Development.* In FY06, EF-Armenia launched an operating program to create a country-wide network of resource centers for community development (RCCD). These centers will serve as a hub for information and communications for local community based organizations and other local clients. Support for RCCDs will continue into FY 07 when EF Armenia will work to establish and strengthen an RCCD network throughout Armenia. EF-Armenia also plans to adopt the approach to youth development, which has been utilized by the Youth Bank of Northern Ireland. This initiative is part of the Eurasia Foundation's South Caucasus regional strategy on promoting youth activism and participation in community development.
- *Local Governance Development.* In FY 07, EF Armenia will conduct training workshops on identified subjects (including migration and social partnership) for local government in Armenia. EF Armenia will also work to develop the capacities of local municipalities and civil society organizations to inform potential labor migrants of the rights and responsibilities while abroad. In cooperation with the New Eurasia Foundation in Russia, EF Armenia will also provide grants to local organizations in order to develop cooperative relationships with resource centers serving labor migrants in Russia and conduct a PR campaign to promote informed labor migration. As a part of its on-going program in support of local municipalities, EF-Armenia will initiate a program on promoting social partnership among local government, civil society and the business community.
- *Regional Print Media.* Based on the results of research on regional media conducted in FY05, in August 2006 EF-Armenia will begin implementation of a program for developing the capacities of regional print media outlets. Implementation of this program will continue through FY 07. This program is a part of the EF-Armenia long term strategy for supporting independent media in the country. In FY 07, EF Armenia also plans to conduct an evaluation of its print media distribution grants and develop a plan for expanding the media distribution network that is based on the evaluation results.
- *Cross-Border Dialogue and Cooperation.* EF-Armenia will continue to provide grants and technical assistance to a number of leading think-tanks and policy institutions for conducting assessments and implementing projects on the promotion of economic, social and cultural relationships between Armenia and its neighbors. EF Armenia will also organize a conference on cross-border cooperation in early FY07, at which the results of EF's research grants will be presented; conduct a series of policy discussion round tables and workshops in Yerevan and in Turkey on issues of cross-border

cooperation; and conduct research on how the socio-economic conditions of communities on the Armenia-Georgia border can be improved by cross-border trade. The results of this research will be disseminated through conferences in Armenia and Georgia and an operating program may be developed based on the assessment results.

- *Anti-Corruption.* In FY06 EF-Armenia launched a new initiative designed to build cooperation between civil society, the media and government in the fight against corruption. In FY 07 EF Armenia will work to build the capacities of local NGOs, government employees and other civil society organizations in promoting the transparency of government activities at the national and local levels.
- *Corporate Social Investment.* In FY06 EF-Armenia will receive the results of a survey on corporate social investment practices in Armenia. Based on the results of this survey, EF Armenia will conduct a series of round-table meetings with representatives of the business elite of Armenia in order to introduce the survey results, the concept of corporate social investment and its possible implications for Armenia. EF Armenia will also conduct a competition for “challenge grants” to promote cooperation between NGOs and the private sector in the implementation of social investment projects
- *Development of Organizational Capacities (DOC).* In FY 06 EF Armenia completed the development of a DOC assessment methodology. By the end of FY 06, EF Armenia will have selected two organizations for participation in the DOC Program. In FY 07, another four organizations will be assessed and DOC grants to support action plan implementation will be provided. A modified version of the assessment methodology will be developed for local businesses.



Azerbaijan FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$526,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Azerbaijan through 9 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Severe cuts in USAID funding for Azerbaijan resulted in significant reduction of the EF-Az grants budget making necessary a more targeted approach to grantmaking, which was complemented by operational activities to maximize the impact of the limited funding available. The EF-Az office has made a greater effort to coordinate our priorities in order to add value to and complement existing USAID initiatives, as well as those of other local and international organizations.

Additional operational activities included workshops, conferences and seminars on specific topics, cluster meetings and trainings for grantees, a baseline evaluation and comprehensive outreach effort.

In FY06, EF-Az made a successful fundraising effort, which resulted in nearly \$300,000 of direct funding from various sources to EF-Az to complement the USG funding and implement several important operating programs.

The EF-Az office currently has 21 active grants, two of which have been awarded in the past several months. In addition, four more grants are to be issued within the next few weeks (two grants awarded within the municipal development competition, one grant for the educational program and one policy-related grant).

EF's FY06 highlights in Azerbaijan include:

- The *Social Investment Initiative* continued to provide support to local businesses on developing, managing and evaluating their social investment programs. In February, EF-Az organized an interactive workshop led by the President of the Lucent Technologies Foundation, where the principles of the strategy and management of corporate social investment for over 60 local businesses were introduced. The most recent activity included a 2-day workshop in late June led by the VP for Community and Education Relations at the Boeing Company, which was offered to a select group of pilot companies who are interested in developing and/or expanding their current social investment programs.

- A competition was held under EF-Az's *Municipal Management and Budget Transparency Program*, which will result in two awards to NGOs to work with selected municipalities to strengthen their capacity and budget transparency practices. The two grants under this competition will be complemented by an operational component of developing performance indicators to measure success and the status of development of local governments and to identify areas for their further improvements.
- The *Azerbaijan Youth Fund Program* was launched in January, 2006 as a unique initiative that places real-life opportunities for decision-making and resource allocation into the hands of young people throughout the country. This program, which leverages USAID core funds with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI), has established five youth-led grant committees in five regions outside of Baku to oversee the disbursement of small grants and resources that support young people's good ideas to address social needs in their own communities. An intensive orientation conference was held in March for the 35 young committee members and 3 trainers from Northern Ireland, which was followed by a capacity-building workshop in May. Three additional workshops are currently planned throughout the year to develop the skills necessary as the committees develop their own small grants programs that support youth-led initiatives in their communities.

Selected EF Grant Results in Azerbaijan Registered in FY06

- The *Azerbaijan Project Management Association (AZPMA)* was designed to introduce international quality management standards to local businesses and certify local personnel as specialists of quality management in Azerbaijan. In partnership with the grantee organization, the representatives of the Ukrainian Association of Quality, a member of the European Organization of Quality, provided training for 20 participants on the process of quality management and selected the most successful trainees among them to provide further training opportunities (ToT). After the TOT, five local trainers will conduct trainings throughout the country on the process of quality management for more than 50 local businessmen and women. The project will issue educational-methodological publications about quality management to training and seminar participants. Two seminars will be held in order to clarify issues surrounding the introduction of a modern system of quality management into Azerbaijan.
- The *ECOLEX Center for Environmental Law* project is aimed at promoting public policy and advocacy skills by formalizing mechanisms for public participation in the decision-making processes of governmental institutions, which was identified as a USAID priority in their 2005 civil society assessment. After conducting an analysis of the current environment for public participation in decision-making processes related to economic, social and environmental issues, the grantee organization formed a focus group with

representatives from local NGOs, mass media, related ministries, the national Parliament and international organizations. This group will develop and promote procedures and legislation on the mentioned issues. The practical publication, "Public participation is a new tool of democratization of the society and public administration in Azerbaijan," will be developed in Azerbaijani and Russian languages. The project will also organize a conference and present draft legislation at relevant Parliamentary commissions. As a part of the project's policy advocacy activity, participants will cooperate with bodies to adopt new legislation to regulate public participation in discussions of economic, social and environmental-related issues.

Evaluations in FY 2006

EF-Az has completed and published one baseline assessment in FY06 to analyze the demand among local businesses for the office's social investment initiative. The final assessment report has been submitted to the local USAID office and to its partners.

Plans for FY07

- *Integrated Municipal Development Program (IMDP):* This program will capitalize on the past experience of EF-Az with municipal development programming to continue building municipal capacity through increasing the entrepreneurial and resource generation potential of local governance institutions, supporting micro-projects implemented jointly by municipalities and civil society groups and developing performance indicators for municipal planning and capacity development purposes.
- *Support for Educational Reform:* This program will address the lack of participation of citizens and civil society groups in the educational processes by developing sustainable partnership models between secondary schools and local communities, municipalities and businesses. The program will also seek ways to improve schools' transparent practices and push for accurate implementation of anti-corruption law in the field of secondary education. This program will build upon EF-Az's past experience with Community Active Schools (CAS) projects and earlier anti-corruption initiatives.
- *Parliamentary Assistance and Policy Initiative:* This program will be aimed at increasing public participation in legislative drafting and decision-making processes by developing the capacity of both civil society organizations and the Parliament (Milli Mejlis) of Azerbaijan to conduct policy research, legal analysis and advocacy using issue-based analysis and professional public relations skills. The Program will publish a "Parliament Watch" bulletin to inform citizens of Azerbaijan and the wider business and international community about the parliament's legislative activity and draft laws.
- *Social Investment Initiative:* This program will encourage the development of social investment and corporate philanthropy in order to enable systematic participation of the private sector in the civic and economic development goals of Azerbaijan. Focus will be given to assisting domestic companies and

joint ventures in carrying out social investment programs in a strategic and innovative manner and to promoting the commercial benefits of social investment within the business community.

- *Azerbaijan Youth Fund Program:* In partnership with Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI), Youth Fund creates opportunities for youth-led groups to address social needs, participate as active citizens in their communities and develop professional governance and management skills through capacity-building exercises and practical experience operating a small grants program that directly supports youth-led initiatives in their communities.



Georgia FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$1.05 million in USG funding on programs benefiting Georgia through 13 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

In FY06, in cooperation with a former grantee UNA, EFG won a USAID sub-contract for the grant component totaling \$650,000 of the National Integration and Tolerance Building Program. In addition, approximately \$250,000 was raised from UNDP/IFC/BP for the Pipeline Monitoring Dialogue Initiative. EF leveraged additional resources by co-funding several grants with other donors.

EF's FY06 highlights in Georgia included:

The NGO Anti-Watchdog Corruption Program, which facilitated NGOs in the regions of Georgia to monitor government performance within their communities, and to identify specific mechanisms of public funds misuse and abuses of power. The ten selected organizations worked to strengthen investigative reporting, defend consumer rights, monitor government budgets and promote transparency in education reform. For example, grantees:

- Monitored state funds and identified inappropriate spending which was followed by recommendations for governmental organizations and different institutions on effective administration of finances and budget planning for local self-governments;
- Trained civil servants from within the different governmental agencies on freedom of information, decision making and efficient governance at the regional level;
- Carried out active media campaigns nationwide, on a certain issues of each project's anti-corruption activity; investigated and published stories on corruption and wrongdoings within different governmental institutions and spheres;
- Wrote a series of investigative journalism articles covering Georgia's energy sector, judicial system and health care system reforms.
- Facilitated dialogue among local government, civil society organizations and civic groups;
- Requested public information from governmental organizations, and won several court cases against administrations for concealing public information to NGOs.

Pipeline Monitoring and Dialogue Initiative, which is co-funded by UNDP, IFC and BP/BTC. The overall goal of the program is to develop the NGO sector's

monitoring and auditing capacity in regards to BP oil pipeline construction and its impact on the environment and on local communities. Cycle two of the PMDI program is progressing well and includes both follow-up auditing and auditing of new areas. Twenty NGOs are participating, divided into four Work Groups of five NGOs each. Each group is responsible for monitoring one of the following areas: Waste Management, the Reinstatement Process, the Protection of Cultural Heritage and Oil Spill Response. NGOs are verifying whether non-compliances identified during the first cycle have been corrected and if recommendations have been taken on-board. Final reports are due by July 15 and all findings will be presented to BP Georgia, to be followed by a public presentation in September.

Cluster of Grants on youth issues

- A grant to EveryChild Georgia will support the reform of the country's child welfare system by establishing a pilot community-based model of foster care. This project, which is co-funded by UNICEF and EveryChild builds upon reforms currently taking place within the Ministry of Education to dismantle Georgia's system of Soviet-era orphanages and other child care institutions by setting up foster care and small group homes as alternatives. The grantee will improve the foster care system in the Rustavi and Tianeti regions by developing appropriate "gate-keeping" mechanisms for entry into the foster care system, in parallel with establishing standards for the provision of emergency, short-term and long-term foster care. The organization will also establish a small group home, create a community service center for vulnerable children and develop and deliver family support services to keep vulnerable families from abandoning their children to institutions.
- A grant to the Business Ethics Association of Georgia will develop internship opportunities for 90 young people at prominent government agencies, NGOs and businesses. The project will focus on vulnerable youth to give them the skills and work experience needed to compete in the labor market.
- Abkhazeti Youth Center will work with youth considered internally displaced persons (IDPs) to help them develop planning and leadership skills. The project will establish six youth centers in areas of the country heavily populated by IDPs.

Selected EF Grant Results in Georgia Registered in FY06:

- A grant to Studio Reporter to strengthen investigative journalism in Georgia. The organization produced two investigative journalistic pieces per month focusing on topics such as human rights abuses, government corruption, abuse of power and harassment of businesses by government authorities. The films were broadcast on Georgian television. One of the films led to the firing of several police officers and the resignation of a member of parliament from the ruling party.

- A grant to Tanadgoma Library-Cultural Center for People with Disabilities to facilitate the integration of disabled children into society. The grantee conducted training courses for over 200 teachers from 20 schools in Tbilisi, Rustavi and Batumi on how to meet the needs of disabled children in public schools. The grantee also developed a public education campaign about the rights of disabled children to attend public schools and special trainings for journalists on how to cover issues related to the disabled in a more sensitive manner. The ultimate goal of the project is to admit 130 disabled children into mainstream public schools.
- A grant to the Broadcasting Company Hereti to promote civic activity among youth in the Kakheti region and to involve them in the educational reform process. The grantee developed a network of young activists at both the school and university level, who received special training in both journalism techniques and educational reform issues. The students then broadcast reports on how educational reform was taking place in their communities. The grantee won an award from Oneworld Broadcasting Trust for its contribution to protection of human rights.

Evaluations for FY07

EFG is planning a number of baseline assessments and evaluations of the completed programs towards the end of FY06 and beginning of FY07.

Evaluation of “Open School initiative”

EFG will evaluate an initiative for open schools, which ended in FY06. In addition to evaluating its impact on the improvement of management and transparency in the targeted schools, the evaluation will assess the extent of the network development of the project and their impact on the overall reform of the secondary education system recently initiated by the government.

Research of the Azeri and Armenian Minority NGO’s and Civic Groups

In preparation for the launch of the National Integration program, EFG will develop a comprehensive picture of the most active minority NGOs and civic groups, and their most pressing concerns. The research will be used, in turn, to prepare recommendations for future partnerships and individual projects.

Media Baseline Assessment

EFG will commission an assessment of the current situation in print and electronic media; donor activities; and gaps in media assistance. It will also provide recommendations for developing competitions for media groups and outlets.

Research on local philanthropy

The research will analyze the current philanthropic activities of local businesses. It will also analyze motivations for philanthropy in Georgia, current and potential target groups and potential for philanthropic development in the country.

Plans for FY07

- *Civic Integration of Less Developed Regions of Georgia.* EF plans to develop programs in the post-conflict or minority-populated (potential conflict) regions of Ajara, Marneuli, South Ossetia and others.
- *Civic Integration of Youth.* EF plans to integrate Georgia's youth into the country's social, economic, and political structures of the country. Cross-sectoral programs with the private enterprise development program might focus on the development of career centers for youth attending universities.
- *Media Support.* EF plans to support the media's independence in Georgia and enhance its role as a civic watchdog of government activities and as a catalyst for increased citizen participation, particularly through support to investigative journalism projects.
- *Municipal Development.* EF will support grants to improve the effectiveness of local governance in Georgia and to encourage the cooperation between civil society and local government. A cluster of grants will be awarded to NGOs aimed at developing transparent and efficient governmental structures at the local levels



South Caucasus Cooperation Program FY06 Highlights and FY07 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

In FY06, the South Caucasus Cooperation Program (SCCP) made 27 grants to support 9 three-sided projects. These grants were distributed among the Eurasia Foundation's mandate areas as follows: 3 in Public Administration and Policy, 6 in Private Enterprise Development, and 18 in Civil Society.

Of these 27 grants, 24 were contact grants (small grants of up to \$3,000 that allow organizations to develop a larger linkage proposal) and 3 were linkage grants (grants of up to \$50,000 per organization that allow for implementation of projects developed during the contact phase). The average linkage grant size was \$35,600.

In FY06, SCCP received \$193,000 in direct funding from the following non-USG donor:

- \$193,000 from the British Government's Department for International Development to implement 18 months program: Promoting Civil Sector Participation in the Dialogue on EU Integration Process. (June 2006-December 2007)

In FY06, SCCP focused its support in three key areas: facilitating cross-border media partnerships, supporting civil society participation in the management of transboundary water resources, and increasing public participation in the policymaking process. Program achievements in those areas include the following:

- *Facilitating cross-border media partnerships*

On January 30, 2006, SCCP organized a Media Networking Event, regional media conference for region's media advocacy, policy organizations as well as accredited journalists. More than 65 participants met in Tbilisi to network, share experiences and coordinate activities. By the end of the event, SCCP announced news about the two stage competition in the field to further support the regional media initiatives and development of professional and independent media in the South Caucasus.

Through a competitive process, five three-sided contact projects received funding in March 2006 and in the beginning of June an expert panel selected three linkage projects for funding. SCCP will award the selected projects in the mid July, 2006. The projects are innovative and will focus on (1) improving the quality of journalism faculty at three prominent universities in the South Caucasus; (2) launching a new three sided TV program and a documentary film festival in the South Caucasus and (3) resuming a three sided radio program in an innovative format.

- *Supporting Civil society participation in the management of transboundary water resources*

In July 2005, SCCP convened a large two-day meeting for regional NGOs working in the field of water resource management. The workshop participants presented case studies, established new partnerships and brainstormed innovative ways to increase civil society involvement in water management. The participants also proposed an idea of creating a more formal group of non-governmental organizations interested in water resource management.

In November 2005, SCCP co-sponsored a regional workshop for NGOs with an interest in water resource management. The participants took the decision to establish an NGO forum, which will serve as a mechanism for improving cooperation between the Forum members and international donor organization. The forum will also serve as a platform for distributing information throughout the Kura-Araks river basin.

In October 2005, SCCP supported one linkage project in this field. The partnership within three organizations will be increased while evaluating the existing national standards and norms for protection and rational utilization of transboundary water resources. The partners will also consider organizing a public awareness campaign for making the citizens aware in the transboundary water resource issues.

By May 2006 the Program has received three proposals in the field of Transboundary Water Resource Management for its consideration. One project will be selected for funding from mid-July 06.

- *Increasing public participation in the policymaking process*

Following the competition in the public administration and policy in 2005, SCCP awarded two project proposals to ease the employment policy directions and to improve the business environment in the South Caucasus countries.

In September 2005, SCCP awarded another project in public administration and policy direction, to work in the field of alternative punishment. Within the project, three partner organizations, through public opinion polls plan to find out the grounds for implementing the alternative punishment systems, compare the legislation and advertise the systems of alternative punishment among the population of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In May 2006, SCCP developed a formal call for proposals for the South Caucasus Policy Forum giving a chance to its policy partnerships to co-organize the event. Each of the partnerships submitted applications. The applications are being discussed and the final decision will be made by July 2006.

In June 2006, SCCP launched a new 18 months program on Promoting Civil Sector Participation in the Dialogue on European Integration. The program is

supported by the British Government's Department for International Development. The program aims at: bolstering the capacity of public policy organizations to promote harmonization of domestic legislation and policy with European and international standards; increasing the cooperation between the NGOs and journalists and raising public awareness in the EU related issues.

Selected Grant Results Registered in FY06

- *Transboundary Water Resource Management:* Despite the conflicts and economic problems water remains one of the key shared resources for the countries of the South Caucasus; however using transboundary water resources efficiently still remains as a problem. SCCP awarded a grant to a partnership of three organizations to address this issue. The partners will conduct analysis of existing in South Caucasus countries national standards and norms regulating the protection and rational utilization of the transborder water resources and compare with the standards being used in the USA and European countries. Furthermore, the organizations will analyze the benefits of the European and USA standards on their application to the concrete Kura-Araks rivers' basin. Partners will also work to raise public awareness and to stimulate public cooperation and joint efforts on protection and rational utilization of transborder water resources in South Caucasus Countries. In the framework of the project the partners will hold the national and regional conferences, publish brochures, broadcast Talk Shows, and create the Geographic Informational System and web-site in order to extend the access to the information on the regional water resources' conditions. As a result of the project the recommendations for further development of national standards on protection and rational utilization of transborder water resources of Kura-Araks river basins will be worked out and presented for utilization to the appropriate governmental bodies in 3 countries.

Additional Activities in FY06

- In September 2006, SCCP plans to hold an initial meeting for its new program Promoting Civil Sector Participation in the Dialogue on European Integration, with the key stakeholders in the field to finalize the policy areas in which to concentrate.
- In mid July, the Program staff will make a final decision on the South Caucasus Policy Forum topics and in September 2006, SCCP plans to convene one South Caucasus Policy Forum. Another forum might be held in October. Two possible topics of the meetings might be a discussion on the Labor Codes in the South Caucasus region and Improvement of Business Environment in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- On July 17-22, SCCP will co-sponsor training in Integrated Water Resource Management. The training will be carried out by the USAID supported PA

Consulting South Caucasus Water Program. This training will help improve the ongoing water resource management project that SCCP has supported

- In 2006, SCCP will award a grant to consumers' rights protection organizations to monitor the food quality on the customs points and through a set of meetings at selected schools in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia raise the youth awareness about the importance of food safety.

Evaluation

Given the flow of past grantmaking, an evaluation for the public policy projects awarded in FY03 and FY05 public policy projects will be tendered in the first quarter of FY07. The cluster of three projects in the cross-border media program area will come to an end in summer 2007 and should be evaluated in the fourth quarter of FY07. The water resource management projects supported in FY06 will conclude at about the same time in the fiscal year, so an evaluation for this program area would be appropriate in the fourth quarter of FY07 or the first quarter of FY08.

Plans for FY07

- *Regional Independent Media:* SCCP will continue its support to independent professional media in the region. In 2007 SCCP plans to launch a new program entitled, *Training and Exchange in Economic Journalism*. The concept note is developed and presented to Swedish International Development Agency.
- *Public Policy Institute Development:* Through its new initiative Promoting Civil Sector Participation in the Dialogue on European Integration, SCCP considers to convene three South Caucasus Policy Fora, followed by three jointly produced policy papers on the topics of discussion.
- *Water Resource Management:* in addition to its grantmaking, SCCP plans to run a region-wide environmental journalist competition. The program has set some funds for a workshop to kick off this competition and UNDP in Bratislava has already expressed interest in co-funding such an initiative.



Belarus FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Fortunately, despite some of the worst repressions in Belarus' history during the lead up to the March 19, 2006 presidential elections, EF was able to maintain a presence in Belarus through the New Eurasia Establishment (NEE). The NEE is an independent, locally-registered entity able to provide grants and technical support within the scope of Belarusian law. EF is the NEE's sole founder and leads the NEE's managing board.

In the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation (EF) spent \$222,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Belarus through 2 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Belarus highlights include:

- NEE Hosted a Business Education Conference and Business Education Forum. In April 2006, NEE, together with the Institute of Business and Management Technologies at Belarus State University and the Association of Business Education, organized a series of meetings promoting business education in Belarus. An academic conference drew together over 100 academics and education administrators. The following day the organizers held a business forum, the first of its kind, for over 200 alumni, prospective students, and business leaders from Belarus and abroad.
- Despite open hostility toward foreign assistance, KRO awarded two open door grants to Belarusian organizations in December 2005: A one-year \$32,000 grant to the Stolny Society for Mutual Lending will promote credit unions in Belarus; and a grant for nearly \$50,000, went to ISAR Belarus for stimulating NGO participation in local government decision-making on environmental issues.
- EF and NEE have received additional support from USAID: NEE will start a new program rolling out student legal clinics in FY06, thanks to \$172,000 in supplemental funding from USAID.

FY07 Plans (NEE)

- *Business Education:* NEE's ongoing business education program aims to enhance the professional capacity of the Belarus business community through high quality, international-standard business education. Objectives for FY07 include improving professional capacity of lecturers and trainers; updating curricula; promoting cooperation between Belarusian and international educational institutions; developing partnerships between business education programs, graduates and businesses; setting up a post-graduate training

- program for business education professionals; and developing education in innovative business sectors currently not covered in business education programs.
- *Local Economic Development:* NEE aims to advance social and economic development in rural areas by introducing new and innovative business models and sharing best practices and lessons learned in Ukraine and Belarus (rural green tourism, credit unions, and privatization of state agro-enterprises). Plans for FY07 include developing an existing rural entrepreneurship center into a resource for new, similar entities; promoting credit unions, mutual loan public companies, and security funds through workshops and seminars, promotional literature and consulting services; introducing, in cooperation with CNFA, models of farming and farmers' networking in target regions; and building a team of certified trainers to work on-site with rural tourism providers. NEE will also set up an educational center for rural "green" tourism businesses and hold an international conference on rural tourism.
 - *Legal Clinics:* The Belarus Legal Clinics Support Program will promote and enhance civic engagement by improving university-based legal clinics, expanding the network of clinics, and providing legal services to the most vulnerable groups of citizens including prisoners and their families. NEE will team with ABA/CEELI and Belarus State University to strengthen legal clinics. Applying proven models, the program will work with the Center for Legal Clinical Education at Belarus State University and five legal clinics in other universities in Belarus: three existing clinics and two new clinics, to be identified. The program will also encourage the creation of a network of legal clinics operating in Belarus by coordinating the work of Belarus State University, Belarus State Economics University, and other existing and new legal clinics.



Moldova FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

In the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation (EF) spent \$146,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Moldova through one grant and other activities, including operating programs.

Moldova FY06 highlights include:

- *Moldova Citizen Oversight Initiative.* In February 2006, EF was invited to participate in an advisory council to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) in implementing the EU-Moldova Action Plan. EF signed an agreement on cooperation with the MFAEI in April 2006. EF and the MFAEI then co-organized a workshop on citizen participation in government reform efforts, attended by over 150 representatives of government, civil society, media, and the international community. Based on the workshop's recommendations, a multi-sector working group drafted a legal framework for government-civil society cooperation. EF is a member of the working group.
- *Anti-Corruption Alliance.* In January 2006, the EF Moldova Office and eight other NGOs founded the Anti-Corruption Alliance (ACA), an independent advisory body on anti-corruption issues. EF has also been tapped to host the secretariat of the Alliance with EF program officer Veaceslav Palade appointed as the ACA's secretary. Under the auspices of Moldovan Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev the ACA signed an agreement on cooperation with the governmental Center for Combatting Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC). According to the agreement, the Alliance shall have quarterly meetings with the Prime Minister and CCECC director general to discuss the progress of cooperation. One project under the umbrella of the ACA is underway: EF and fellow ACA member the Center for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC) launched a project to test a new method of providing independent expertise on legislation submitted to parliament, examining draft laws to identify and eliminate opportunities for corruption therein. At the project's launching conference Moldovan Parliament Speaker Marian Lupu welcomed EF's project, saying, "Establishing a mechanism to provide non-governmental expertise to draft laws will reduce the risk of government error and improve the quality of legislative acts." Mr. Lupu also expressed his hope that the project will be "one of many joint actions by public authorities and civil society to fight corruption in the future, and that it will bring real and practical results."
- *Free and Fair Elections.* EF organized two study trips for eight representatives of Moldovan NGOs (Members of Coalition 2005) in March

2006. The study trips helped participating NGOs gain knowledge and new skills, and establish valuable contacts with Ukrainian and Russian partners. In June, with support from EF the League for the Defense of Human Rights in Moldova (LADOM) became a member of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO). LADOM was an active member of Coalition 2005, conducting short-term election monitoring and Moldova's first-ever parallel vote count with financial support and technical assistance provided by EF.

- Sorin Mereacre, EF Associate Country Director for Moldova, has been appointed to the Moldovan Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Working Group, according to an April 25 Government decision. Sorin will monitor and advise the implementation of the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Plan, a program dedicated to reducing corruption in Moldova.

FY07 Plans (EF and EEDF)

- *Moldova Citizen Oversight Initiative: Citizen Input into Key Reform Policies.* Working with the Moldovan government and civil society, EF will increase the role of civil society and the public in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan, the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (EGPRSP) and The National Strategy for Preventing and Fighting Corruption. The project will provide civil society with tools for monitoring and evaluating economic and social policies in a systematic way. Activities include setting up two or three Interactive Centers on EU-Moldova Action Plan implementation and awarding grants to civil society organizations to monitor implementation of the EGPRSP. EF's grantees will provide recommendations to the government and propose specific actions based on their findings.
- *Moldova Citizen Oversight Initiative: Anti-Corruption Initiative.* EF aims to increase the role of civil society and media in preventing and fighting systemic corruption in Moldova. Working with a broad coalition of NGOs and media partners, EF will support initiatives to monitor, advise, report, and address corruption at the national and local level. The main vehicle for these activities will be the Anti-Corruption Alliance (ACA). The Foundation will host the ACA Secretariat, coordinate local and national initiatives, fund specific projects, provide technical assistance to ACA members, and set up working groups with government authorities.
- *Moldova Citizen Oversight Initiative: Free and Fair Elections.* EF will rebuild a Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (using the groundbreaking Coalition 2005 as a model) and strengthen cooperation with the government by offering technical assistance and education (through our NGOs partners) to the CEC and lower level election commissions. Objectives include: building capacities of domestic election monitoring group(s); lobbying for reform of the Electoral Code; educating voters about elections-related issues; and offering technical assistance to national NGOs. EF and other prominent civil society leaders

have formed a task force which will conduct a coordinated set of activities to ensure a free and fair election process of the Governor of the Gagauz-Yeri Autonomy (Gagauzia) scheduled for autumn of 2006: NGO ADEPT will conduct a comprehensive and detailed education campaign for voters and election officials; LADOM will perform non-partisan long- and short-term monitoring, reporting on any violations of existing laws and the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) and the Association of Independent Press (API) will perform media monitoring and report on the results to government and international actors.



Ukraine FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

In the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$791,000 on programs benefiting Ukraine through 23 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Ukraine highlights include:

- *Support for Free and Fair Parliamentary and Local Elections (March 2006):* The Eurasia Foundation awarded a total of \$189,298 in the form of 15 grants and other technical assistance for elections activities. EF designed its parliamentary and local elections programs to focus on compliance with new procedures and voter education on the new structure of the government. Among other things our elections-related grants included a number of local-level voter outreach and education campaigns.
- The Foundation responded to the Ukraine-Russia gas conflict by launching a new competition in March 2006, announced together with the Ministry of Construction and Architecture. The program, *Municipal Partnerships for Better Energy Use*, will stimulate energy savings in municipal buildings through public-private partnership.
- *Local Economic Development.* EF is currently expanding its joint program with OSCE, Local Economic Development (LEaD), to four additional regions: Cherkasy, Kherson, Zhytomyr, and Crimea, bringing the total number of regions to ten.
- *Vox Populi.* Together with the Civil Society Institute (CSI) and the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE), EF has begun a national discussion on administrative reforms in Ukraine. The discussions, which consist of community-level roundtables and larger public hearings, are planned for eight regions and are funded by USAID, the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
 - Rayon-level round tables are being carried out in 32 rayons of 8 oblasts. At these roundtables, citizens and local elites are informed about the inventory of their rayon's resources and are asked for ideas about reforming their communities.
 - A telephone hotline on administrative reforms has been set up: +380-44-490-5656. The hotline has received 874 information requests. The hotline has seen increased traffic as the program gains momentum.
 - EF announced the opportunities fund, a small grants component of the program, in May 2006. The opportunities fund will support local-level small projects for advocacy and civic education on administrative reforms issues.

FY 2007 Plans

Specific EF program areas will be continued and broadened by EEDF. They include:

- *Transparent, inclusive and participatory social investment at the local level:* All programs will build on the successes of EF's existing program portfolio, including the *Local Economic Development* program, the *Economic Partnerships with Local Governments* initiative, the *Strengthening Rural Councils* initiative, the *Municipal Partnerships for Energy Savings* program and the *Encouraging Corporate Citizenship* initiative. Specific EEDF programs will include implementing public and private social investment initiatives, devising innovative methods for helping vulnerable groups participate in the local economies; training government officials to include their constituencies—including private business—in the local decision-making process; and ensuring businesses have strategic social investment programs developed in partnership with their communities.
- *Citizen and expert participation in the policy reform process:* Building on the success of EF's existing programs, including the *Vox Populi* program, *Free and Fair elections* program, *Anti-corruption* initiatives and *Public Administration Education* program, EEDF will support innovative approaches that citizens can use to shape the political agenda of the government and to translate that agenda into accessible language. Additional goals include ensuring that the public policy process incorporates concerns from experts and citizens; acting as a platform for discussion and debate on key policy initiatives; and educating the public on their civic duties and methods of influencing public policy.
- *Support to national reconciliation and European integration:* This program will harmonize relations among elements of a divided society, provide consensus on national issues and help Ukraine adopt EU standards. The program will support activities contributing to national reforms, including balancing relations between branches of power and between central and local governments, facilitating a constructive dialogue between political forces and forming the supportive legal framework for minorities in Ukraine. In this process EEDF will rely on EU standards and norms to achieve sustainable program results.
- *Cross-border and international programs:* Civil society plays an essential role in promoting constructive international policy dialogue, so EEDF will emphasize cross-border programming by facilitating communication among and between Ukraine and Europe, the Black Sea region, Russia and other former Soviet countries to assure a balanced development of Ukraine's relations with its neighbors. EEDF will support this by catalyzing cross-border cooperation among governments, businesses, expert communities and civil society organizations.



Uzbekistan FY 2006 Activities and FY 2007 Plans

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Update

The Eurasia Foundation (EF) liquidated its office in Tashkent in June 2006 as a result of government pressure which intensified in January 2006. In order to continue supporting Uzbek beneficiaries in FY06, EF continued its long-running regional cooperation and partnership programs, which are run out of other EF offices. In consultations with USAID/CAR and the U.S. ambassadors in the region, EF developed a plan to expand these regional cooperation and partnership programs, to continue engaging with the people of Uzbekistan. USAID/CAR asked the Eurasia Foundation to submit its program plans for Uzbekistan to USAID for distribution and review by USAID and the U.S. Embassies prior to implementing its FY07 plan.

EF expects to continue working with Uzbekistani institutions and individuals in FY07 through a broad range of activities, focusing on private enterprise development, education, economics research, community development, labor migration and media. EF's Regional Programs Office (RPO) in Almaty will coordinate regional cooperation programs involving Uzbek beneficiaries. These programs, including the Central Asia Applied Research Network, a labor migration initiative, and regional scholarship programs, involve at least three countries in the region.

At the recommendation of U.S. Embassies in the region, EF will award partnership grants out of its Washington office. The RPO will assist the Washington office in monitoring these partnership programs. Partnership programs involve technical assistance and grants to organizations from other countries working with partners in Uzbekistan.

Regional Programs

Central Asia Applied Research Network (CAARN)

The Eurasia Foundation will continue running the Central Asia Applied Research Network (CAARN), a program designed to build applied research capacity at leading economics and business faculties in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The program is An \$850,000 Global Development Alliance initiative involving major contributions by OSCE, the Global Development Network, and Carana Corporation (USAID). Eurasia Foundation is implementing the program with Moscow-based Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC). EERC runs intensive applied research training modules, provides distance mentorships for

participating universities, and awards corporate-funded fellowships via competition. In Uzbekistan in FY07, CAARN expects to support four universities.

Regional Labor Migration Initiative

The Eurasia Foundation has been running a coordinated labor migration program in Central Asia since 2004, involving origin countries Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and destination countries Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Working closely with the OSCE, IOM and the governments of the region, Eurasia Foundation will continue its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of labor migrants and increase migrants' access to support networks and information about their rights and responsibilities.

Uzbekistan labor migrants are the least protected in Central Asia, since their government does not formally recognize the phenomenon. They also represent a large population of Uzbek citizens concentrated primarily in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

In FY07, EF will strengthen the services of resource centers in Moscow and Ekaterinburg and involve government representatives from Central Asia in the formation of public policy and legislation supporting legal labor migration. In Kazakhstan, EF will continue to provide technical assistance and grants via limited competition to NGOs working with migrants. These programs will focus on providing direct assistance to Uzbek labor migrants; producing information resources; working with employers to improve their legal compliance; training of government officials; and reducing the vulnerability of labor migrants.

In Kyrgyzstan, the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) will continue its work with labor migrants in southern Kyrgyzstan. EFCA will provide continuing support to the Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders, a project originally launched with Canadian, USAID and OSCE funding. Local NGOs will provide legal assistance to migrants on the Kyrgyz side of the Osh-Andijan and Kara-Suu border crossings; and use this information to advocate for more rationale Kyrgyz policy toward incoming migrants at the national level.

Regional Media Cooperation in the Ferghana Valley

The Eurasia Foundation will continue its work to promote media cooperation and joint media programming in the Ferghana Valley by running media management training for print and electronic media outlets in FY07. The program will consist of four phases. The first phase will be a forum of 30 representatives of media from the three countries, to be held in Khujand, Tajikistan. The site was chosen after receiving approval from the U.S. ambassador to Tajikistan. In the second phase, EF will select 10 to 15 media to receive intensive business training and consultations. The third phase will consist of institutional development grants to two media outlets, to strengthen their business operations. The fourth phase will be a seminar to discuss the

project results. EF expects the British and Dutch governments to continue supporting this initiative in FY07.

Regional Scholarship Programs

The Eurasia Foundation plans to continue running competitive regional scholarship programs in the fields of journalism and environmental management, including scholarships for Uzbek graduate students.

Surviving Closed Societies

In June 2006, with Dutch government funding, EF will hold a seminar for NGOs from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Belarus on running projects and conducting advocacy in difficult regimes. Based on the seminar's findings, EF will seek to run additional activities in FY07. EF plans to organize internships at NGOs in other Russian-speaking countries. EF also plans to train civic leaders from Uzbekistan in information security and to support off-site seminars and other training events.

Other Regional Cooperation Programs

EF plans to continue seeking opportunities to promote regional cooperation involving three or more countries of Central Asia. EF expects to continue running ongoing regional library cooperation, artist cooperation and youth cooperation programs involving Uzbek beneficiaries in the Ferghana Valley.

Partnership Programs

The Kelajak Ilmi International Business School (IBS)

In FY07, EF plans to continue supporting IBS, the only non-governmental higher education institution in Uzbekistan. Tuition is approximately \$1,500 a year, a third of the tuition at Westminster International University of Tashkent, and a scholarship fund makes it affordable to any student who is able to meet the entrance requirements. The instruction is in English and the program is modeled on Western MBA programs. It involves students in decision-making, including, for example, how to distribute scholarship assistance. And it is overseen by a board that ties it to the local and international business community.

Using legacy funding from the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund, EF is upgrading IBS computer systems and its library collection with a large supply of books. EF also plans to support a preparatory summer school, to help more students pass the entrance threshold. In FY07, EF will support the third year of four years of scholarship funding, at \$35,000 per annum. EF is also working with CAAEF and USAID to identify and purchase a building for IBS. EF will continue supporting a part-time consultant to assist with the school's management and coordinate its board of directors.

NGO Advocacy

Using primarily non-USAID funding, EF seeks to continue supporting civic leaders and NGOs in Uzbekistan in FY07. EF plans to support the following programming:

- A listserv-based newsletter for NGOs
- Development and maintenance of a database of current and former NGOs
- An off-site seminar on the state of civil society in Uzbekistan.

The goal of this programming is to stay engaged with former civil society constituents, to monitor the status of civic leaders and former NGO staff in the regions of Uzbekistan, and to provide ongoing support to community leaders who remain committed to promoting civil society in Uzbekistan.

Other Partnership Projects

In order to continue providing support for Uzbek beneficiaries, EF will continue to seek partnership opportunities to link organizations outside of Uzbekistan with organizations, communities and individuals in Uzbekistan. EF will provide technical assistance and grants to support these partnerships. Grant awards will be made from the Washington DC office of the Eurasia Foundation.

Potential EF partnerships for Uzbekistan include the following:

- The SodBi business incubator in Shimkent to work with analogous organizations in Uzbekistan to develop Kazakh-Uzbek small business trade;
- The AKI-Press news agency in Bishkek to expand its existing correspondents network in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan into Uzbekistan;
- Aid to Artisans, based in Connecticut to introduce lead-free pottery methods;
- The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland, to send Uzbek human rights defenders to their training sessions;
- A civil society support center in Ekaterinaburg, Russia to continue partnerships with local NGOs started under USAID's civil society support program; and
- An NGO based in Turkestan, Kazakhstan to link Kazakh and Uzbek tourism routes.

*For information on programs in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan,
please see Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA) under the section entitled,
“Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects.”*



Evaluation and Grant Results

EURASIA FOUNDATION

Evaluation

During the first half of FY06, the Foundation's evaluation efforts were proportionally focused on conducting needs assessments prior to launching new programs and projects and on assessing the outcomes of field office activities undertaken in previous periods.

There is a growing number of needs and baseline assessments, a result of the multitude of innovative ideas and new projects generated in field offices in such programs areas as corporate social responsibility in Azerbaijan and education in Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic. In Belarus, needs assessment efforts were focused on private enterprise development while in Ukraine they were focused on integrated rural development. The effort of testing up front a program's hypothesis and collecting baseline data will be evident in the future success of our new programs/projects, and will enable the Foundation to measure objectively the outcomes that it will achieve.

To assess outcomes and evaluate the impact of projects and programs supported by the Foundation in previous years, 10 summative evaluations have been conducted. Accordingly, the Foundation has conducted the following 17 evaluation projects to date in FY06:

Baseline/Needs Assessments:

- Baseline assessment on the current state of corporate social investments in Azerbaijan
- Needs Assessment for Ukraine Local Economic Development Program (LEAD-1)
- Needs Assessment for Belarus Local Economic Development Program
- Needs assessment of the design industry and local educational institutions of Kyrgyz Republic
- Needs Assessment/Stakeholder Analysis on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Higher Education Institutions in Armenia
- Evaluation of sociological research results on deinstitutionalization of orphans in Kazakhstan

Programs and Grants Impact Evaluations:

- Outcome evaluation of the Partnership for Prosperity program in Ukraine
- Impact evaluation of Moldova election-related program
- Evaluation of the grant to promote ecotourism in Jabagli village of Kazakhstan
- Evaluation of the grant to promote ecotourism in Alokolskiy region of Kazakhstan
- Evaluation of the institutional development grant to SodBi business incubator in Kazakhstan
- Impact evaluation of the Program on NGO cooperation on labor migration issues in Fergana Valley
- Impact evaluation of the Project on Beekeepers' network in Fergana Valley
- Outcome evaluation of the project on innovations of ecological management methods of hotel-tourism enterprises in Kyrgyzstan
- Outcome evaluation of the project on system of mobile management of non-governmental media outlets in Kyrgyz Republic.

Process and Mid-term Evaluations:

- *Summative evaluation* of an 18-month program titled: "The Preservation of Intellectual Resources and the More Effective Usage of Labor Resources in the Russian Far East."
- Process evaluation of Voice of Fergana Valley project, Osh

Grant Results

139 grants were closed during the period October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006 and below are the statistics collected through the Foundation's evaluation system.

Individual level

1. Number of direct individual beneficiaries	27,266
2. Number of trainees	9,353
3. Number of organizational beneficiaries	1,835

Organizational level

4. Number of new partnerships formed by grantees	278
5. Resources leveraged from counterparts	\$1.031 million

Societal level

6. Media products disseminated	1,277
7. Grantee innovations replicated by others	62
8. New jobs created	1,285
9. New businesses formed	212

IV. Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects



EURASIA FOUNDATION

Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects

Large Grant - New Eurasia Foundation (FNE)

Political Developments in Russian Federation

The Federal Law of the Russian Federation #18-FZ *On Introducing Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation* was signed by the President of RF on January 10, 2006. The Law will come into effect on April 16, 2006.

The New Eurasia Foundation took part in a number of meetings and discussions concerning the potential consequences of law implementation to Russian NGOs. Together with other Russian and international NGOs, and lawyers providing pro bono legal services to Russian NGOs, FNE is engaged in elaboration of an effective coordination mechanism to ensure adequate monitoring and implementation of this Law.

Other legislative acts that are currently under development – the Law on Endowment, the Law on Foundations, and amendments to RF Tax Code may introduce significant changes to the legal and fiscal environment affecting NGOs.

The recent spy scandal between Russia and Great Britain and numerous allegations against EF and FNE strained FNE relationship with the Chuvash Republic and Saratov Regional Administration. Thus, FNE was informed that the partnership agreements with FNE for the implementation of Municipal Bonds project (the Chuvash Republic) and Phase II of Municipal Investment project (Saratov regional administration) would not be signed.

Program Highlights

As of March 2006 there are about 30 on-going programs and projects that are being implemented by the New Eurasia Foundation. It is expected that five new projects will be launched within next three months.

In March 2006 the New Eurasia Foundation and the Salym Petroleum Development (SPD, Shell Corporation) started a joint small business development initiative in Salym settlement of Nefteyugansk district (Khanty-Mansy Autonomous Okrug.) The project is aimed at increasing the local economy diversification and job creation to improve the living standards of the low-income, vulnerable, and socially excluded groups and mitigate the risk of social tensions in the Salym project area.

The program is designed to enhance the social impacts of SPD activities in Nefteyugansk district; it will also help promote a positive image and socially responsible business practices of SPD that works at the local, national, and international levels.

Within the framework of a comprehensive multi-year Migration Bridges program FNE strives to create the conditions for stabilizing socio-economic development of Russian regions through the provision of social support and assistance in the legalization of migrants. One of the program outcomes will be the development of Inter-regional Cross-border system of monitoring the migration situation at various levels to accumulate the information on migration processes, enhance the monitoring of migration flow, exchange migration statistics, and quantify migration processes using system dynamics model. FNE implements this program together with the Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan and the EF regional offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; it is expected that the EF Armenia regional office, the Soros Foundation Georgia office and the Republic of Tatarstan will buy into this program in April 2006.

The first international conference “The Impact of Migration on the Social and Economic Development of Russian regions and CIS counties” conducted under the auspices of this program in February 2006 brought together 75 participants from 25 Russian regions and 6 countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan). The conference participants include high level officials from Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Regional Development, Russian Ambassadors to Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, Kyrgyz Ambassador to Russia, reps of migration committees from the pilot regions, leaders of Diasporas (Armenian, Georgian, Jewish and others), NGOs, and non-governmental foundations. As the result of this conference, the working group was created that would develop The Russian Federation Targeted Program on Creation of Migrant Support Centers. FNE experts will be the members of this working group.

A conference on student loans at Ditchley Park in Oxford, United Kingdom, organised by the Eurasia Foundation, the New Eurasia Foundation, and the Oxford Russia Fund, took place in January 2006. It was attended by a wide gathering of senior Russian and Western experts. Representatives from the Russian federal government agreed on the importance of tertiary education, improving and increasing enrolment, and making a long term investment in human potential. Tertiary education in Russia requires more resources and thus different kinds of finance, including private finance. FNE will continue to be actively involved in facilitation of a dialogue between the different Russian and Western stakeholders involved. Next conference will take place in Moscow in June 2006; the focus of this conference will be on non-budget sources of university finance.

The FNE Regional Youth Program is being successfully implemented in six pilot regions: Kaliningrad, Pskov, Saratov, Tambov, Tomsk and Vladimir. The program is aimed at establishment of Regional Resource Centers and Regional Strategic Teams

that will serve as research and youth environment development centers, design regional youth policy, and provide support to youth grassroots organization in implementing socially significant projects. Within the framework of this program, Youth Social Initiatives Conference and Project Fair were held in Saratov Oblast by FNE, the Ministry of Education of the Saratov Oblast in March 2006. The Fair was attended by almost 500 representatives (students and working youth) and 14 youth NGOs. As a result of this Conference and project Fair quite a few new project ideas were generated by Youth Organizations. Among them - “Creation of the Information Center on Youth Employment”, “Find Yourself” – socio-psychological adaptation of youth in the labor market, “Youth: the Technologies of Survival” – creation of the information field for solving socio-psychological problems of youth, “Healthy Inoculation” – initial drug abuse prevention, “Establishment of the Voluntary Movement Center”, and “Life in a Village through the Eyes of Youth” – organization of a competition of projects solving the problems of the village youth. Some of the project ideas will be further developed and submitted for FNE funding.

FNE started a new program aimed at developing conditions required to ensure comprehensive development of the economy and the social sphere of the Republic of Udmurtia. Under this program FNE will promote innovations and innovative practices capable of ensuring ongoing renewal of the technical and technological production basis, introduction and production of new competitive products, and effective takeover of new markets. FNE’s major task will be to create necessary conditions for the improvement of professional qualification of employees of regional and municipal administrations and managers of comprehensive development projects and to develop municipal and regional bidding practices required to develop and implement innovative projects and programs designed to ensure stable economic and social development.

The finalizing of a donation agreement allowed FNE to resume its negotiations with the Barents Euro-Arctic Secretariat and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The preliminary agreement was reached that a tri-party grant-making initiative will be launched in May 2006 and will focus on local governance support, cross-border collaboration, SME development, and community development.

Progress on FNE Capacity Building

The New Eurasia Foundation mission statement was revised to reflect the changes in the Foundation program priorities:

New FNE Mission statement - The New Eurasia Foundation is committed to enhance the life of people through programs designed to foster effective social and economic development at the regional and federal level by attracting and applying best international expertise and innovate technologies, and by consolidating the efforts of public and private sector.

The FNE affiliate office in the Russian Far East was officially opened in December 2006. The office is fully operational. The main goal of the FNE activities in the Russian Far East is to further the realization of territorial development programs in the Far Eastern Federal District. Program activities include four major areas:

- Effective management models in the sphere of internal and external labor migration;
- Development of social partnerships;
- New approaches to fight homelessness and neglect; and
- Human capital development.

The New Eurasia Foundation's first annual report was developed and published in February 2006. The report describes the FNE activities carried out during the period October 2004 – December 2005.

The FNE Charter was revised; the revisions include: adjusted primary goal of the Foundation (new mission statement); introduction of new Committees (Financial and Nominations Committees) and the FNE Russian Far East Affiliate Office; delegation of the authority to the Executive Committee to approve FNE organizational structure and amendments to the FNE annual financial plan, establishment of FNE branches and FNE participation in other organizations.

The donation agreement with the Eurasia Foundation was negotiated and finalized in March 2006. Utilization of this alternative funding mechanism will minimize the FNE tax liability and allow full-scale implementation of programmatic activities.

Certain efforts were undertaken to improve FNE financial system and ensure sharing of financial information among the project managers and more thorough analysis of financial data. As a result, FNE financial procedures have been revised and budget templates were unified, the budget development was conducted in a structured and transparent manner involving all program managers.

Large Grant - Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA)

Localization Update

The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) was registered in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, November 30, 2005. The first full meeting of its Board of Trustees was convened Feb. 23, 2006 in Bishkek, followed by a formal opening ceremony and reception. EFCA board members held several high level meetings with diplomats, including the U.S. ambassadors to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, and government officials to promote the work and discuss the new foundation's programs.

EF is now preparing to register a twin entity to EFCA in Almaty, Kazakhstan. An affiliate will also be registered in Tajikistan this spring. By the end of 2011, EFCA expects to have

established a financially sustainable indigenous foundation that will provide an ongoing development resource to local communities and NGOs in Central Asia.

EFCA's overarching goal is to help develop private enterprise, strengthen civil society, improve public administration, prevent conflict and promote community engagement in Central Asia. Over the next six years, EFCA will absorb the assets, human resources and institutional capacity of five representative offices of the US-based Eurasia Foundation and continue to build on work EF has accomplished in Central Asia since 1993. With the help of secured core funding from the U.S. Government, EFCA expects the donors currently supporting EF programs in Central Asia to provide both core and project-specific support to EFCA.

Leveraging its current core funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, EF's Central Asia programs are supported by more than 30 corporate and government donors, many of whom have expressed a willingness to transfer funding commitments to the EFCA either directly or via EF. The EFCA plans to run between 40-50 medium-sized development programs per year.

Political Update

General trends in the region are clearly towards greater authoritarianism and suspicion of NGOs. With the exception of Uzbekistan, EF has positive relations with host governments, and in the coming months will try to strengthen these relations to position itself as a constructive partner.

Kazakhstan

The government has taken some steps to increase oversight over foreign NGOs. The migration police unexpectedly inspected IFES and Freedom House. EF needs to weigh the consequences of a similar inspection on its international staffing; as a first step, the Almaty Regional Office (ARO) is seeking an exemption as a charitable organization to the foreign labor quota. Also, there is a new requirement that foreign NGOs publish annual reports. This requirement starts with calendar year 2005, though there is no time limit set, and EF is awaiting USAID guidance.

At the same time, EF is building strong relationships with several ministries and governors, and a recent statement by the president encouraging corporate social responsibility presents an opportunity for EF to further demonstrate its usefulness to the host government.

Kyrgyz Republic

Political stability remains elusive. Tensions remain between parliament and government, with the speaker of parliament resigning at the end of February.

The Ministry of Justice in January announced it would investigate NGOs receiving foreign funding, but later retracted this statement, saying it had been due to a poor Kyrgyz-to-Russian

translation. In March Ombudsman Tursunbay Bakir uluu reportedly suggested to the prime minister that foreign-funded NGOs should be brought under tighter control, as they pursue political goals that threaten national security.

EF continues to cooperate closely with several government agencies, including the State Committee for Employment and Migration on labor migration, and the Ministry of Education on transparency in education.

Tajikistan

Democratic progress has slowed in recent months. The government increased restrictions on independent media, gave signals that it will more closely control international and local NGOs, and will clearly brook no serious challenges in the November presidential election. At the same time, independent observers see an increase in Islamist rhetoric, both from the registered Islamic Renaissance Party and from unofficial organizations.

Yet there are also some positive signs. Cooperation between local NGOs and local governments seems stronger than ever, with the majority of EF grantees receiving real contributions and assistance from government organizations. EF itself has two senior presidential advisors on its advisory board, and seems to enjoy a positive relationship with both the government and civil society. In order to strengthen this position, EF will hire a part-time public relations specialist to improve the foundation's image in-country.

Program Update

Kazakhstan

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$243,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Kazakhstan through 6 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

EF will focus on four emerging fields of interest for the remainder of FY06.

- **Community Development.** The second of three grants from the Altria Group is expected to engage in a major, multi-year community development program in Yenbekshi-Kazakh district of Almaty oblast, including the development of NGOs, business, and education.
- **Business-University Partnerships.** EF will seek to link corporations with universities, particularly in the regions. This includes an ecotourism educational program linking local tourist companies, the University of Florida and Turan Astana University.
- **Private Enterprise Development.** Chevron and the ministry of culture are likely to support a three-year program to help craftspeople develop their skills and find new markets.
- **Mobilizing Community Resources.** Corporate Social Responsibility will be promoted through educational and consulting programs with local businesses.

Kyrgyz Republic

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$510,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting the Kyrgyz Republic one grant and other activities, including operating programs.

Under the labor migration operating program, EF will soon start work on vocational training for potential labor migrants. In its transparency in education program, EF will work on developing university boards of trustees and career centers. In media, EF may work with other international and donor organizations to set up a media school, and continue its support of independent media in the Ferghana Valley. EF is also considering a project to increase the quality and analytical content of media coverage of the constitutional reform process. New programs will be developed in the area of youth leadership and eco-tourism.

Tajikistan

Through the first half of FY06, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$221,000 in USG funding on programs benefiting Tajikistan through 8 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

EF will initiate a program to strengthen journalists in remote regions, in an effort to improve information flow within the country. This complements an earlier Dutch-funded program to expand independent media reach into rural areas by increasing broadcast range and print runs.

For FY07, EF intends to begin addressing corruption, by opening legal centers in Tajikistan, modeled on the Public Advocacy Centers in Uzbekistan that would defend small businesses wishing to oppose corruption. EF recently awarded a small grant to a youth NGO to conduct an anti-corruption information campaign, which though modest, apparently may be the first project to tackle this issue, despite the country ranking 144 of 159 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

Legacy Institution - Economics Education Research Consortium (EERC)

EERC-Kyiv

The Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC) Master's Program in Economics at the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" (NaUKMA) consists of a rigorous two-year academic curriculum, comparable to that of leading Western universities and taught in English by international faculty. A significant share of our faculty is of Ukrainian origin, with a Western Ph.D. About 20% of EERC faculty is composed of international 'visiting faculty'.

The program curriculum is a well-designed combination of applied and theoretical courses in the major areas of economics. The Master's Program at NaUKMA is one of the four unique graduate programs in the region, training the new generation of

economists according to international norms.¹ The Master's Program at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is the *only strong internal* source of modern well-trained economists in Ukraine.

Since its founding in 1996, the *Master's Program in Economics at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy* has:

- graduated 335 students (nine classes);
- placed approximately 23% of graduates in policy-related positions in Ukraine and about 45% in the private sector;
- placed about 43% in Ph.D. programs abroad, of which 22 graduates had completed a western Ph.D. and 32% currently continue their studies abroad; our alumni are now starting to publish in international economics journals;
- brought back nineteen Western-trained Ukrainian Ph.D. graduates and doctoral students for short and long term teaching and research assignments in Ukraine;
- achieved a significant level of local and international recognition through studies and outreach activities attracting the best students and researchers from Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, South Caucasus, and Central Asia;
- attracted its major Ukrainian donors, such as Interpipe Group, System Capital Management, Industrial Union of Donbas, the National Bank of Ukraine, and Soyz-Victan (approximately 1/3 of the program annual budget is funded through local sources);
- established a new for the region Economic Research and Outreach Center (EROC), a home for local Western trained economists and strong resource center for academicians and policy-makers throughout the region.

EROC plays an important role in promoting and supporting high-quality economic research and assisting other regional institutions of higher education to modernize their curricula and instruction in economics.

During the past two years the research center has:

- organized annually student conferences and an outreach conferences for educators;
- introduced other conferences on various topics in economics (two academic conferences; one conference on application of economics research in business; two conferences for policy-makers) and conducted several workshops;
- participated in organization of five grant competitions (joint with EERC-Moscow);
- initiated an application for co-funding to INTAS, and jointly with EERC-Russia held a summer school on 'Econometrics' in Kyiv;
- received a grant from HESP-OSI to host a three-year outreach project on 'Economics of the Firm,' for junior instructors of economics from the

¹ The other centers are the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education in Prague, the Central European University in Budapest, and the New Economic School in Moscow, each of which enrolls a small number of Ukrainian students.

- universities in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia; the project involves three summer schools and various intersession activities (workshops, conferences, joint research projects, online consultations);
- organized 25 outreach trips to local universities during which Western trained professors taught a one-week mini-course in the subjects of ‘economics’ at the universities of the ‘region’²;
 - hosts several research groups (labor group, productivity group, enterprise group, macro group);
 - increased the number of faculty members that receive a research incentive supplement from one to five. EROC-supported researchers have produced many papers, several of which have been accepted for publication in international journals. EROC also provided students with thesis-related research opportunities.

EERC Russia

EERC's core mission to "strengthen economics education and research in the CIS" was defined from the outset by its initial founders: the Eurasia Foundation, Ford Foundation, World Bank and Open Society Institute in 1995. Through a CIS-wide fellowship program to support policy-relevant research, the Consortium developed a viable network of practitioners and academicians in CIS and offered creative technological solutions to promote exchange of ideas throughout this vast region. Today EERC runs a diversified package of advanced education and capacity-building training programs, and provides professional development and mentoring for researchers both in the industry and academe under a number of national and international initiatives and in cooperation with numerous public and private partners.

In recognition of its outstanding role in promoting economics in the developing world, EERC was selected to become a regional hub for the Global Development Network (GDN, www.gdnet.org) in the CIS. EERC's Moscow-based research network is creating a revitalized research culture in the region, giving local economists the tools and training needed to work at the frontiers of their discipline, especially in policy-relevant studies, and to subject research to international standards of excellence and peer review.

Building capacity for research and policy analysis

EERC runs comprehensive research and research development programs, consisting of an integrated cycle of grant competitions, summer schools, workshops, and individualized short-term residences at international-style “centers of excellence”. Through its “*Focus on Policy*” program, EERC supports the dialogue between network members and decision makers in government. EERC also publishes and disseminates—in English and Russian—a professional working papers series and a newsletter. The website (www.eerc.ru) features an *online library*, which provides open access to important databases of full-text scientific literature.

² The ‘region’ where EERC-EROC spreads its activities entails Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Some of EERC-EROC activities also involve Russia and Central Asia.

EERC established higher standards for economics research in Russia and western CIS through its recognized brand activity - *bi-annual research competitions*. While keeping up its core function, EERC has expanded its operation both structurally and geographically to involve into a number of relevant side initiatives with some of them becoming increasingly definitive of the EERC's overall activity. Funded and implemented in cooperation with various partners, they all have one cross-cutting agenda – closing the gap between research and policy.

Central Asian Applied Research Network – a joint initiative of a number of international and national donors including Eurasia Foundation, OSCE, USAID, CARANA Corporation and local top businesses in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The objective of CAARN is to build institutional and human capacity in at least 30 universities in Central Asia to respond to applied research needs of the local communities, including government and business. The project establishes rigorous professional standards in economics/business disciplines and strong linkage between academia and policy makers in the region.

Bridging Research and Policy Project – coordinated by EERC and funded by the Global Development Network, this project provides researchers in the transition and developing countries with expert guidance on how to advance policymakers' awareness of their research and how to increase its policy impact. Twenty-two individual projects were selected on a competitive basis for the purpose of investigating the links between research and policy in specific contexts. The synthesis will examine the emerging knowledge “marketplace” in developing and transition countries and review the incentives faced by producers and consumers in this market.

Multidisciplinary Research and Intermediation Initiative - initiated by EERC and funded by the Global Development Network, the MIR initiative seeks to bridge the gap between research and policy in transition and developing countries by furthering multidisciplinary approaches to key development policy issues. Three research teams (from Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan) received funding in form of individual grants and presented interim results at the GDN Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in January 2006.

Challenging opportunities – a way forward

EERC's strategy for the next few years will be develop a web of regional alliances, a network of networks covering Russia's regions, Western CIS, the Caucasus and Central Asia. From the EERC point of view, the “network of networks” approach brings a number of important benefits. First, by empowering local institutions and individuals to perform vital networking functions, strategic alliances at the sub-regional level will allow to “franchise” or mainstream the EERC model of developing the economics profession. Second, such alliances will increase EERC's access to local donors and policymaking communities. Third, they will improve EERC's ability to address local capacity building needs and local knowledge gaps – research and training programs can only be effective when based on a realistic assessment of local needs and capacities which is difficult to conduct from Moscow.

EERC in facts and figures

- EERC Network has expanded to all CIS countries and currently counts hundreds of academic, governmental and business institutions among its members;
- Since 1996, EERC has held nineteen research competitions and supported more than (more than that, including development grants) 300 research projects;
- More than 770 research teams from most CIS countries have taken part in international research workshops designed to develop a culture of academic peer review and establish high professional standards in economics research;
- Organized 18 methodological seminars and summer schools that strengthened the analytical skills of more than 505 young scholars who were subsequently engaged in economics research and policy analysis;
- EERC developed a unique online library (www.eerc.ru) featuring full text access to JSTOR journal archive, a large collection of Elsevier journals, working papers of the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Centre for Economic Policy Research, as well as the best CIS-based content providers;
- Designed and implemented an ambitious capacity building program for university faculty in Central Asia involving a large coalition of local and international donors, more than 30 universities and 200 selected junior faculty from 18 cities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- Publishes a prestigious series of working papers featuring the best results of academic and policy-related research by CIS-based scholars. Papers in the series go through a rigorous refereeing process involving a highly reputable International Advisory Board and peers. Key policy lessons and recommendations extracted from these papers are adapted for publication in a policy brief series.

Legacy Institution - Small Business Loan Program (SBLP)

On August 1, 2004, the Izmirlian Eurasia Universal Credit Company LLC (IE UCC) officially began operations. The IE UCC offers term loans and lines of credit to businesses engaged in the production and service sectors. Since its inception through March 31, 2006 the IE UCC has disbursed \$4.2 million in 80 loans and had \$3 million in loan balances outstanding. In addition, the IE UCC achieved financial sustainability after 10 months of operation. The Eurasia Foundation's goal of establishing a permanent small business finance company is well under way. As a result of its lending IE UCC borrowers created 543 jobs.

The next planned step in the IE UCC evolution is the exit of the Eurasia Foundation as an owner. This will occur on December 31, 2006 when the Izmirlian Foundation purchases the Eurasia Foundation's ownership in the IE UCC.

Loans disbursed under the Small Business Loan Program continue to be repaid. As of March 31, 2006 the amount of outstanding loan balances were \$254,858. Full repayment is expected by November.

As previously announced, the Ukraine Small Business Loan Program ceased its active operations on March 31, 2004. The two partner banks fully repaid all outstanding loan balances with their last payments in March. The total amount of loans disbursed in Ukraine from inception of the program was \$6,848,037 and the total number of jobs created 745.

Special Project - Caucasus Research Resource Consortium (CRRC)

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers launched the results of the 2005 Data Initiative Survey in October 2005, a regional survey on household economic behavior and social attitudes conducted simultaneously in all three South Caucasus countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The CRRC Data Initiative brings together experts from all three countries in the South Caucasus to collaborate in this regional survey and to ensure inter-country coordination and that survey methodologies are comparable, reliable and controlled at all levels. The survey collects statistics on a range of issues such as demography, education, migration, economic behavior, health, political activities, social institutions, and crime. This year, CRRC Data Initiative expanded its survey from the capital cities to one additional region in each country. The results were well received by the local public and were published on local newspapers, news agency web sites, and broadcasted on local television. The third Data Initiative began in January 2006 and will cover the entire territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Results will be available to the public in October 2006.

CRRC launched its second annual fellowship program in January 2006. This program provides grants to individuals or small teams of researchers from the South Caucasus region to conduct research projects that address critical social or economic issues in the South Caucasus. CRRC will be awarding 21 grants of approximately \$3,500 each. The results of the fellowship research will be publicly available and all fellows will participate in the annual fellowship conference to present their findings. The results of the fellowship research will also be published in an annual publication.

V. Appendices

Appendix A

Expenditure Chart by Strategic Objective October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

USAID Core III Expenditures
Grant number EMT-G-00-02-00008-00
Period 10/1/05 - 3/31/06

	Russia	Ukraine	Moldova	Belarus	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	Tajikistan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Georgia	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Total
ENI-SO-1.2 (Fiscal Policies)	\$ 76,306	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,743	\$ -	\$ 78,049
ENI-SO-1.3 (Private Enterprise)	\$ 79,627	\$ 57,548	\$ 14,954	\$ 101,177	\$ 13,450	\$ -	\$ 59,202	\$ 52,020	\$ 94,193	\$ 344,817	\$ 112,195	\$ 175,450	\$ 1,104,634
ENI-SO-1.4 (Responsive Fin Sctr)	\$ 76,306	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 945	\$ 994	\$ 6,725	\$ 85,697
ENI-SO-2.1 (Informed Citizenry)	\$ 153,734	\$ 611,097	\$ 130,717	\$ 114,745	\$ 15,697	\$ (1,574)	\$ 144,458	\$ 191,126	\$ 378,653	\$ 575,665	\$ 362,271	\$ 238,347	\$ 2,914,936
ENI-SO-2.2 (Legal Reform)	\$ 76,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,048	\$ -	\$ 2,023	\$ -	\$ 37,236	\$ 112,062	\$ 71,800	\$ 105,405	\$ 405,833
ENI-SO-2.3 (Local Government)	\$ 80,557	\$ 122,543	\$ -	\$ 6,492	\$ 68	\$ -	\$ 15,131	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,302	\$ 142,495	\$ -	\$ 381,588
Totals	\$ 542,789	\$ 791,188	\$ 145,672	\$ 222,415	\$ 30,989	\$ (1,574)	\$ 220,813	\$ 243,146	\$ 510,081	\$ 1,047,792	\$ 691,499	\$ 525,928	\$ 4,970,738

Appendix B

Outcome Statements of Grants Closed October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Armenia

Business Promotion Center Dilnet

Y04-4015

\$15,555

Dilijan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 9/15/2005

Tavush is one of Armenia's most beautiful regions, however, its economic development is hindered because small and medium enterprises (SME) working in the tourism industry provide low-quality services. The goal of the project was to support the development of those SMEs in Dilijan that promote tourism. With support from EF, the Business Promotion Center Dilnet enlarged the scope of the services, which it provides to include training for local tourism-related SMEs in business consulting, marketing, the preparation of business plans, and the designing and printing of booklets. The center also conducted a thorough needs assessment in order to identify the most urgent needs of local businesses in the tourism industry. As a result of this assessment, personnel from 12 selected bed and breakfasts (B&B) received training in service provision and 4 enterprises received strategy development consulting. A catalogue with information on 50 businesses in the tourism sector was also published and disseminated throughout the marz by Dilnet.

As a result of the technical assistance provided through this project, participating B&Bs registered a 15% growth in sales. All the planned activities were successfully implemented and the organization is currently working as a tourism promotion center. In recognition of its work in tourism promotion, Dilnet was recently awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Government of Armenia for the promotion of tourism in the region

Noemberyan Municipality

Y03-7006

\$20,019

Noemberyan, Armenia

6/1/2003 - 10/31/2004

Local governments in Armenia lack modern technical resources and the capacities to provide quality services to residents. Resources are not used efficiently and there is a lack of cooperation between local government bodies and the population. To improve municipal performance and efficiency, local governments in Armenia require the introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the automation of internal procedures, information storage and retrieval. They also require that key personnel receive training in the operation of new computer programs, modern fiscal management, strategic administrative planning and customer service. To address these problems, a Municipal Information-Analytical Center (MIAC) was established in Noemberyan Municipality. As part of the project, an intranet linking this MIAC with others throughout Armenia was established, software packages for municipal development were introduced, and various databases were created to support municipal activities. A large information campaign was organized in Noemberyan to raise public awareness of the Center's activities. The campaign included the dissemination of information bulletins and brochures, face-to-face meetings, and round table discussions.

As a result of the project, the Noemberyan Municipality now provides better access to information for its citizens and performs its responsibilities more efficiently. The municipality has also begun organizing public hearings and regular meetings between local authorities and residents.

Support for Noyemberyan Non-Governmental Organization

Y04-5027

\$18,835

Noyemberyan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 8/15/2005

The remoteness of the Tavush Region and the poor participation of businessmen and women in the region's economic life have contributed to its slow pace of economic development. In response, the "Support for Noemberyan" NGO provided consultations for businessmen and women and organized a series of trainings for entrepreneurs on starting a business. The organization established a web site in an effort to make more information on these subjects available to local businessmen. In order to promote contact between businesses in the region and other parts of Armenia, the grantee organized an exhibition of local products and published a Business Yellow Pages for the Tavush Region. The

grantee also held a series of round tables on the region's economic development with attendees from the government, NGO and business sectors.

As a result of the project, 17 women started new businesses in the region and 8 business plans were developed and presented to financial institutions for funding. The skills of businessmen and women in the region were strengthened, the level of coordination between the private, government and NGO sectors was improved and the role of women in the development of the region's economy was increased.

The Municipality of Gavar

Y03-7022

\$19,830

Gavar, Armenia

6/1/2003 - 3/31/2005

Local governments in Armenia lack modern technical resources and the capacities to provide quality services to the population. As a result, resources are not used efficiently and there is a lack of cooperation between local government bodies and the population. To improve municipal performance and efficiency, local governments in Armenia need the introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the automation of internal procedures, information storage and retrieval. They also need training for key personnel in the operation of new software packages, modern fiscal management, strategic administrative planning and customer service. To address these problems, a Municipal Information-Analytical Center (MIAC) was established in Gavar Municipality. A package of municipal programs was installed in the center to help accelerate and improve routine activities. Project staff was also trained to operate these programs. In order to promote the exchange of information with other municipalities, an intranet linking MIAC's throughout Armenia was installed. A public information campaign was conducted to inform local residents about the MIAC's establishment and the types of information, which they can access there.

As a result of the project, the municipality saved time on service provision and on accessing demographic and budgetary information. In addition, feedback by the population to local government bodies increased.

Yeghegnacsor Municipality

Y03-7009

\$21,405

Yeghegnadzor, Armenia

6/1/2003 - 8/31/2004

Local governments in Armenia need cutting-edge technologies to automate internal procedures and improve information storage and retrieval. Municipalities also need the introduction of techniques for modern fiscal management, planning and customer service. To address these problems, a Municipal Information-Analytical Center (MIAC) was established in Yeghegnadzor Municipality. The goal of the project was to increase the quality and efficiency of services provided by the municipality to citizens and to promote citizen participation in local government decision-making processes. A package of municipal programs for budgeting and recordkeeping was installed within the center to help accelerate and improve routine activities. Municipal staff was also trained to operate these programs. This improved the municipality's effectiveness because it saved time in service provision, filtering demographic information and budgeting. An information campaign was also conducted and 1,000 copies each of "Vardadzor" and "Aspect" newspapers were published to inform the population about the activities of the MIAC. In the course of project implementation, the municipality of Yeghegnadzor cooperated with a number of NGOs including the Center for Support to Young Families and Young Generation.

As a result of the project, the municipality saved time on service provision and on accessing needed demographic and budgetary information. In addition, feedback by the population to local government bodies increased and cooperation between the municipality and local NGOs improved.

Zinavori Mair Republican Committee of Armenia

Y04-5048

\$17,126

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 11/15/2005

In Armenia, there is very little information available for conscripts and their families on the rights of young men entering the army. The goal of this project was to create better public awareness on conscripts' rights. The project accomplished this goal by expanding legal services to conscripts and their families, by improving the understanding of conscripts' legal rights by the general public and local NGOs, by publishing information materials and a book on this subject, and by creating a web site with interactive consulting for public use. The project contributed to the development and strengthening of democratic values among a large group of the population by improving awareness of conscripts' rights as well as by providing opportunities for families and conscripts to address violations of these rights.

Armenian-German Development Agency NGO

Y04-5055

\$20,364

Echmiadzin, Armenia

12/1/2004 - 11/30/2005

Armenian municipalities, which are responsible for promoting communities' economic development, do not have the organizational and professional skills for carrying out these functions. Economic departments are not present in all municipalities of Armenia, and in those where there are such departments, they are functioning at a low level. The goal of this project was to improve the ability of local governments to foster the economic development of communities. More specifically, the project (1) established three functioning municipal economic departments and (2) promoted partnership and information exchange between the target municipalities and key stakeholders.

During the project, the following activities were implemented: a) three economic departments were provided with equipment, b) the employees of these departments were trained, c) an exchange was organised with the Economic Department of the Town of Zelle in Germany, d) a website for the economic departments of target municipalities was launched, e) model projects for economic partnership were developed, and f) information (leaflets, brochures & six TV broadcasts) on the project and the departments' role in the community was disseminated to local stakeholders. Although community members initially displayed a lack of interest in the project and in the departments' role in community development, this lack of interest was overcome with an information campaign highlighting the potential benefits of the departments' work. As a result of the project, three economic departments are functioning in municipalities of the Armavir and Gegharkunik regions and cooperation between these departments, community residents, local businesses, and similar departments abroad was established.

Association of Communities of Armenia NGO

Y05-0057

\$19,610

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2005 - 12/31/2005

Armenia's New Electoral Code was adopted on June 1, 2005. This document contained substantial changes regarding the local election processes. Although local government elections started shortly after the introduction of the new Electoral Code, information regarding those changes has not been disseminated broadly among the population and general public remained unaware of the new electoral requirements. The goal of this project was to support free and fair local elections in Armenia. To reach this goal, the following project objectives were achieved: a) to develop a guide on the new Electoral Code; and b) to raise the awareness of the country's population on the new Electoral Code of Armenia.

In the course of the project implementation, the following activities were implemented: a) dissemination of a guide on the new Electoral Code of Armenia to all marzes of Armenia (total of 17,120 copies); b) seminars throughout Armenia explaining the Electoral Code to a broad population (24 seminars); and c) a survey to evaluate the importance and usefulness of conducted seminars, which revealed that over 90% of respondents stated that the conducted seminars were important and useful. As a result of the project, a decrease in the number of violations during the pre-election campaign and during elections was noted by the election's observers.

All the initially planned objectives and activities were implemented. The successful implementation of the project is explained by a strong expert team involved in the publication of a guide on the new Electoral Code and the grantee's experience in conducting public awareness seminars.

Ijevan Business Support Center LLC

Y04-4004

\$19,414

Ijevan, Armenia

11/22/2004 - 12/31/2005

The major barriers to small and medium enterprise (SME) development in Tavush Marz are a lack of business and financial skills, a lack of information about external markets, and a low level of awareness of legal requirements for businesses. These problems result in poor services and low production, limited access to markets and inefficient financial management. The project's goal was to support the development of SME in the Ijevan district of the Tavush Marz by strengthening the local business support structure and educating entrepreneurs. With EF support, the Ijevan Business Promotion Center (IBPC) conducted a series of trainings for more than 30 entrepreneurs and farmers on financial management and accounting and consulted with more than 50 enterprises on management, business planning, marketing and legal issues. A monthly information bulletin was published and disseminated to more than 200 entrepreneurs of the region for the purpose of increasing awareness among SME representatives on potential markets, legislation specifics and best practices. The grantee successfully implemented all of the planned grant activities.

As a result of the project's implementation, 34 entrepreneurs began preparing their financial statements according to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, thereby avoiding possible fines and penalties and making their businesses more cost-efficient. As a result of the skills and knowledge that they acquired, production volumes of the target enterprises increased by 15% and cost-efficiency increased by 10%. The beneficiaries acquired credit financing in the amount of almost \$30,000. An additional \$150,000 in loans for project beneficiaries is in the process of approval. IBPC itself became more financially sustainable as it increased the number and quality of the services it provides on a fee-for-service basis. These services currently include the preparation of business plans and applications for credits, the preparation of financial statements, and legal consulting.

The project was a success because it was implemented by a team of talented and very motivated young professionals, who were able to attract resources for their organization and to attract more clientele. This project demonstrates how important the managerial abilities of the project director are to the success of the project and how critical the motivation and professional capacities of the project team are to project implementation.

YEREVAK Non-Governmental Organization

Y04-4006

\$18,448

Noemberian, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 12/31/2005

Business support structures in the region face many problems such as a lack of infrastructure, poor communication systems, distrust and a lack of information about the potential for small and medium enterprise (SME) development. As a result, the financial sustainability of business support structures remains highly dependent upon donor contributions. In order to provide up-to-date business information for SMEs, Yerevak NGO implemented a project that established Internet service for Noyemberyan city and 18 nearby communities of the Tavush Marz of Armenia. Within the project framework, Yerevak also provided legal and business consultations to more than 80 entrepreneurs of the region and developed five business plans for companies representing milk, honey production, furniture manufacturing, fish processing and food industry. The business potential of the region is being promoted through the web site of the organization. As a result of the project, Yerevak established itself as an alternative Internet Service Provider in the region and currently provides high-quality Internet services to local businesses, NGOs and the public. In the future, the organization plans to offer more flexible and competitive service packages for Internet users. This service will create a stable source of income for the NGO.

The project's implementation was delayed due to numerous technical requirements, which the partner Internet Service Provider in Yerevan and the telephone company, Armentel, set. Although the project was successful, in the future, EF should do a better job considering the technical feasibility of each project prior to approval and implementation.

Azerbaijan

Fuad Aliyev

C05-0110

\$2,000

Baku, Azerbaijan

4/1/2005 - 8/7/2005

The study of the role of ethics in business relations is relatively new in Azerbaijan, and few studies have been conducted in this field. Fuad Aliyev conducted a fellowship research project that analyzed the role of ethics in the economic behavior of Azerbaijani businessmen. The purpose of this research was to produce new knowledge related to economic behavior in Azerbaijan. Moreover the research developed a baseline to encourage further research related to the role of religion in society, and its influence on economic behavior, in Azerbaijan and post-Soviet Muslim countries. The fellow conducted a sociological survey and a number of in-depth interviews. As a result of the survey, new data related to ethics, value-related judgments, and trends were collected. Based on the research results, the fellow produced an analytical report and published 4 articles that were disseminated to local newspapers and magazines. The fellow conducted a public presentation for CRRC beneficiaries, and handouts were submitted to the Center of Economic Reforms, the Department of Anti-Monopoly Policy, the Ministry of Economic Development, and the Azerbaijan Marketing Society. The research results will be useful for scholars, researchers, and experts working in this area.

Association of Certified Accountants of Azerbaijan

B04-0025

\$32,207

Baku, Azerbaijan

4/20/2004 - 5/19/2005

Azerbaijan's "Law on Accounting," passed in 1995, included a separate provision requiring the development of national accounting standards in compliance with international standards. However, the process of reform has been hindered due to the scarcity of specialists in the government who understand and appreciate the theories behind international standards. This project worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance to organize a working group at the Cabinet of Ministers for elaborating national standards based on international experience. The grantee held 3 training sessions for a select group of 70 private-sector and government financial experts on international standards and arranged for an international expert to consult with this group on suggested accounting reforms. In addition, the project prepared and published a manual in Azerbaijani to teach international standards to local accountants and accounting students in local universities. The grantee organization also facilitated several roundtable discussions among accounting experts and government officials to help determine the optimum ways for introducing international standards into Azerbaijan. As a result, this project supported the development of well-trained financial experts in the public and private sectors who are committed to advancing accounting reforms in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan-America Youth Social Association NSGP

B05-0092

\$12,860

Baku, Azerbaijan

6/10/2005 - 11/30/2005

According to information from the World Factbook, 63% of the population of Azerbaijan is between the ages of 18 and 35. Taking into account this huge number, their active participation in social processes has a very important and decisive role in building democratic and civil society. Unfortunately, youth in rural areas as compared with Baku and other big towns is not relatively active. This is especially the case among vulnerable refugee-IDP groups. One of the reasons for this inactivity is that young people do not know the exact procedures of voting and are preoccupied with providing financially for themselves and their families. To address this issue, the project implemented by the Azerbaijan-American Social Youth Association organized training courses on such topics as "Role and Importance of Elections in Strengthening the Democracy and Civil Society," "Principles of Elections," and "The Election Process" in seven rural areas of Azerbaijan (Fizuli, Barda, Gusar, Lenkeran, Agstafa, Oguz, Masalli). The trainings involved young representatives of refugees, IDPs and national minorities. In addition, the grantee organization conducted Town Hall meetings between the target groups' representatives and the candidates from selected regions and organized a Summer Camp for young activists from the selected regions. To increase the number of project beneficiaries, materials on the election process were published and widely disseminated. As the result of the project, 250 young

people participated in the training sessions delivered in the regions and 40 young activists gathered at the Summer Camp in Sheki to design a Youth Parliament in Azerbaijan. These people will continue working with youth in their regions. The project revealed that despite the existing problems with a lack of youth participation in public processes in the regions, today's generation of young people has an interest in participating in various educational programs and a willingness to work together in order to address the problems they face.

Engineering Charitable Society

B03-0066 \$31,044

Baku, Azerbaijan 4/20/2004 - 3/19/2005

During the processing of agricultural products in Azerbaijan, large amounts of byproducts are accumulated that are rarely used for other purposes. Recycling of these resources by small enterprises and farms has the potential to spur economic development in the regions by providing savings in raw materials for small businesses and providing a source of additional income for farms and small agricultural processing enterprises. To promote the potential benefit of reusing agricultural byproducts, this project collected and categorized data on the amount and types of agricultural byproducts created in Azerbaijan and organized trips to Russia and Georgia to learn from those countries' experiences in this field. The grantee conducted seminars for 56 farmers and small businesses and 10 informational meetings in rural Azerbaijan to promote and publicize the potential benefits of recycling byproducts. In addition, the project published and distributed a book entitled "Utilization of Agricultural Products" and organized an exhibition to generate interest among farmers and small businesses for recycling activities. The project also revealed the necessity to further develop the skills of farmers and small rural businesses to enable them to earn additional revenues and be sustainable.

Independent Consumers Union

B02-0002 \$52,754

Baku, Azerbaijan 5/15/2002 - 5/14/2005

Low-quality food and consumer products are often imported into the local market in Azerbaijan, thereby reducing the competitiveness of local production and increasing the potential for illnesses linked to the consumption of unsafe consumer goods. In order to protect and advocate for heightened protection of consumer's rights, this project supported the institutional development of the Independent Consumers Union by establishing a food-testing laboratory and improving their ability to launch effective public awareness campaigns. During the project's implementation, the grantee created an independent food-testing laboratory with modern equipment and expert-trained staff and held more than 60 testing activities to ensure the quality and safety of various consumer products. The results of the testing were disseminated to the public through state and local radio programs and newspapers. The laboratory will help advocate for consumers' rights in the country and facilitate increased competitiveness of local products.

Irshad-I.A.M. Joint Venture

B03-0100 \$34,445

Baku, Azerbaijan 7/1/2004 - 5/30/2005

In spite of the availability of unique historical, natural and architectural places in Azerbaijan, many regions throughout the country have not taken advantage of potential tourism services as a tool for economic development. To help develop the tourism sector in the regions of Azerbaijan, this project conducted 3 week-long training seminars for 60 guides and tourism operators from Sheki, Ganja and Baku. The project adapted and published methodological training materials in Azerbaijani that illustrate the strategic planning of new tourism routes and the qualifications necessary to conduct high-quality excursions. In addition, a brochure with 8 new tourist routes was printed and distributed at a number of seminars with the participation of representatives from the tourism sector and other stakeholders. As a result of the project, 60 tourism operators increased their qualification, which in turn will accelerate the development of the tourism sector in the country.

KRON Co Ltd.

B04-0094 \$27,343

Baku, Azerbaijan 8/16/2004 - 2/15/2005

Since adoption of the Tax Code in 2001, approximately 120 articles of the code have been amended. Such frequent legislative changes have created numerous problems for entrepreneurs. A survey among entrepreneurs revealed that the resulting confusion and inability of businesses to keep pace with frequent regulatory changes remains one of the most pressing issues for development of small and medium enterprises. This problem is even more severe in rural areas where businesses often cannot afford legal assistance to help them understand the tax regulations. To address this problem, this project conducted 14 interactive trainings for 380 entrepreneurs from the Ganja, Shamkir, Khanlar, Guba, Gusar and Sheki regions aimed at increasing their understanding of the tax code updates and their rights and responsibilities within the framework of the new legislation. In addition, a mobile consultation unit was developed that traveled in the 6 regions providing ongoing consultations to entrepreneurs. The organization prepared and distributed electronic commentaries on the tax legislation and facilitated three round-table discussions with representatives from local tax departments and municipal offices to discuss procedures for interaction between tax authorities and local businesses.

Society of Marketing Specialists of Azerbaijan

B04-0137

\$5,050

Baku, Azerbaijan

9/27/2004 - 3/26/2005

The level of local-language marketing instruction at most of the universities in Azerbaijan is not consistent with international practices and lacks access to specialized modern literature and textbooks on the subject. In order to strengthen local knowledge about the fundamental theories and practices of modern marketing, this project translated the well-known textbook "Marketing: An Introduction," by Gary Armstrong and Philip Kotler, which is used within Harvard University's business curriculum. The organization published 500 copies of the textbook in Azerbaijani and distributed them among business and economic universities throughout the country, as well as to public libraries and local organizations. To deepen the impact of this project, the grantee is continuing to work with the universities to include the textbook as a component of their standard curriculum. This project was funded jointly with the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Office's book translation program in order to provide modern market-oriented business strategies for university students and faculties.

Taraggi Scientific and Industrial Union

B03-0111

\$34,955

Baku, Azerbaijan

12/22/2003 - 12/21/2004

Fishing in the Caspian Sea has decreased over the past several years as a result of quota restrictions promoted by international organizations, thereby resulting in a scanty supply of fish in the internal market of Azerbaijan. Fish farming therefore has the potential to make a significant contribution in poverty reduction and contribute to social wealth in the regions of the country. There is already the potential and prerequisites necessary for fish farms to be created and grow into lucrative businesses, which will promote the overall expansion of the fish market in Azerbaijan. In order to support the creation and development of a network of fish farms, the grantee published specialized literature and held trainings on the most effective methods of fish farming throughout the world. As a result of the technical assistance provided within this project, 15 pilot fish farms started their activities and the association of fish farms named "Aquaculture" was established and registered, which will link the network members and support their businesses. There was great interest from the Ministry of Education in the project and, as a result, publications of the project will be used as teaching materials in the Fish College and the expert of the project will lead specialized classes at the college. In addition, several requests from other regions of the country for technical assistance and consultations from the grantee organization have been received recently. The project revealed great willingness and potential for development of fish farming in Azerbaijan and the necessity to continue further efforts in this sphere.

Association of Seismologists of Azerbaijan

C02-0022

\$43,858

Baku, Azerbaijan

11/14/2002 - 4/18/2005

The terrain of the capital cities of Baku, Tbilisi, and Yerevan is exposed to a high or extremely high seismic risk, which means that an extensive earthquake will have devastating consequences for these cities in terms of the human and material loss. Given the depressed economies of the South Caucasus

countries, increasing the level of preparedness of relevant governmental agencies, municipal services and the general population to respond to an earthquake is the primary approach for diminishing the seismic risk of the cities. To address this need, the Azerbaijan Association of Seismologists continued its successful partnership with its Georgian and Armenian counterparts. Utilizing the emergency response plans developed under their first project, the partners created coordinated action plans for 12 municipal services in each capital city. The Association provided specialized training to more than 60 staff members of these municipal and government services. The analytical and technical products of the project were collected in a training manual entitled "Securing Seismic Protection." 1,000 copies of the training manual were published by the Armenian partner, allowing the project partners to provide copies to the municipal departments and to share their methodology with interested international audiences.

Fovgal Association of Specialists on Emergency Situation and Security of Human Life Activity

C02-0032

\$33,450

Baku, Azerbaijan

5/26/2003 - 11/25/2004

In the South Caucasus, as in much of the former Soviet Union, the legislation regulating the protection, use and management of water resources is unclear, outdated and inconsistent with international standards. Through this project, the FOVGAL Association and its partners in Armenia and Georgia focused on promoting reform of water-related legislation in the South Caucasus. The partners conducted a comparative analysis of water resource legislation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and evaluated the extent to which this legislation complies with international standards, especially those contained in the European Union water management directive. Based on their research and analysis, the partners then developed a set of recommendations for policymakers. The recommendations were published in a booklet and 200 copies were distributed to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, members of parliament, environmental NGOs and other policy stakeholders. These recommendations were presented to stakeholders and further elaborated through two national and three region-wide workshops. In order to provide public access to the project results, the partners created a joint website, which contains information on the project, water-related legislation and relevant recommendations for all three countries, as well as a list of water-related projects active in the South Caucasus. As a policy result of the project, recommended changes to the law "On Amelioration" were adopted by the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan.

Union of Artists of Azerbaijan

C03-0025

\$34,988

Baku, Azerbaijan

2/9/2004 - 12/8/2004

Like many other sectors in the economies of the South Caucasus, the market for fine art and other cultural products faces significant constraints. A lack of professional skills among art dealers and gallery owners and weak business connections are among the deficiencies hampering the formation of an effective regional art market. Working with its partners from Armenia and Georgia, the Union of Artists of Azerbaijan sought to further the development of the contemporary visual art market by addressing these weak points. The partners conducted a series of activities that paved the way to the region's first art exhibition, entitled "Caucasus Art Expo 2004." Their activities included conducting research on the art market in the region, providing a series of marketing trainings for art sector professionals, and creating a database of contemporary visual art and crafts. Additionally, the partners promoted the art expo by publishing a catalog and launching a website. Through these activities and the Expo itself, more than 1,200 art works were exhibited and more than 15,000 people took part in the event. The partners' initiative strengthened the knowledge of cultural professionals and furthered the integration of the region's fine art market.

Organizational & Technical Development Society

C02-0028

\$34,986

Baku, Azerbaijan

10/1/2003 - 9/30/2004

Like all other economic sectors, the collapse of the Soviet Union dramatically affected the once integrated energy systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The isolation of the region's energy systems from each other substantially undermines their stability and, more broadly, the prospects for economic growth in the South Caucasus. With its partners in Armenia and Georgia, the

Organizational and Technical Development Society undertook comprehensive research of the fundamental technical, financial, and legal provisions necessary for reintegrating the national energy systems of the region. The Society produced a series of analytical papers, which describe the current conditions in the national energy sector, development trends for the future, as well as the benefits of reintegration. These papers formed the basis of policy recommendations that were included in a book entitled "Directions of Effective Energy System Integration in the South Caucasus." The book was published in Azeri, Russian and English and was distributed to policymakers and other stakeholders. The partners' efforts substantially intensified the discussion of energy production and distribution issues among key stakeholders in Azerbaijan and throughout the South Caucasus, as well as encouraged communication between energy experts and policymakers in the region.

Belarus

Public Union "Professionals for Development"

K03-0325

\$18,030

Minsk rayon, Belarus

1/1/2004 - 4/30/2005

Belarus's banking system remains archaic and overly bureaucratic. As a result, small businesses cannot access capital and common citizens have little opportunity to receive loans. Alternative forms of financing, such as credit unions, are allowable under current legislation, but citizens are largely uninformed of their benefits, and challenging legal and bureaucratic barriers remain.

The grantee addressed this issue by conducting a public information campaign to promote credit unions. During the campaign, 12 articles were published, four presentations were conducted, and a thousand copies of a new manual, "How to Create a Credit Union," were widely disseminated throughout Belarus. The grantee also organized 11 regional round tables to set up working groups and subsequently provided follow-up consulting services for those groups. The project team developed sample founding documents and sample accounting policies for credit unions.

Although much work remains to be done in this field, the project laid the foundation for a favorable enabling environment for credit unions. For example, with the assistance of the project's information campaign, another grantee, the "Stolny" Society for Mutual Lending, was able to set up a new credit union for private individuals. In addition, the guidelines and proposals were incorporated into some state programs on private enterprise development and employment.

Society for Mutual Lending "Stolny"

K03-0326

\$13,202

Minsk, Belarus

1/1/2004 - 12/31/2004

Belarus's banking system remains archaic and overly bureaucratic. As a result, small businesses cannot access capital and common citizens have little opportunity to receive loans. Alternative forms of financing, such as credit unions, are allowable under current legislation, but legal and bureaucratic barriers are extremely challenging.

The grantee addressed this issue by starting a credit union made up of private individuals. The grantee set up a credit union consulting center to conduct various activities to promote credit unions. The center organized a series of 18 seminars for 735 individuals on the benefits of joining credit unions. Through the center, the grantee also conducted a public information campaign in the press and developed other information products, such as a booklet and a website.

The grantee also submitted proposed changes to credit union regulations to various governmental bodies. Although the government did not accept any of the proposed changes, the grantee did receive written confirmation that their proposals were read. In Belarus's challenging environment, where non-governmental organizations are regularly repressed, such recognition is in itself a significant result.

After only eight months of operation, 86 members joined the credit union and 94 loans were disbursed. These figures double the previous year's output. Thus, the project provided access to capital for small businesses and increased members' purchasing power.

Foundation for Regional Press Development

K02-0332

\$27,660

Minsk, Belarus

1/1/2003 - 3/31/2004

In Belarus, the government press dominates the market, so unbiased information from independent news sources is not available in many regions. To address this problem the grantee, a professional association of independent regional newspaper publishers and editors, conducted market research on the market potential for independent press in six cities. On the basis of this assessment, the grantee then offered training and organizational support to help establish four new press outlets. The newspapers Mestnaja Gazeta in Vaukavysk and Miascovy Chas in Pinsk have begun publishing

regularly; two more independent papers were also ready to register as a result of the support they received from the project. Four new independent publishers joined the grantee's association and now take part in training programs organized in partnership with international support.

Georgia

Association "Institute for Civic Initiatives"

G02-4071

\$16,770

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/1/2002 - 7/25/2004

The field of International Relations emerged as a university discipline in Georgia in the mid-nineties. However, the main literature and theory is not available in Georgian language, and there is a clear lack of skills among policy-makers and even university professors in this field.

The goal of the project was to increase the professional level of policy-makers by improving university-level education through the publication and distribution of a textbook "International Relations Theory: A Reader". The grantee collected major works in International relations theory, including Eduard Cary, Hans Morgentau and Robert Gilping and published them in Georgian language.

In spite of significant problems in the grant management process, the book has been broadly distributed and is widely used by various universities, think tanks and politicians.

Association Child and Environment

G04-0092

\$25,444

Tbilisi, Georgia

8/1/2004 - 4/30/2005

Childcare institutions in Georgia, such as orphanages and boarding schools, are in a dire state. Buildings and infrastructure are in very poor condition, children go without material support or human care, and teachers and medical personnel receive very low salaries. These problems have deep roots. Most children are placed in these institutions because their parents cannot afford to take care of them in the home. Orphanage and boarding school administrations purposefully inflate the numbers of children in order to misappropriate state funds, and school personnel often lack necessary qualifications.

To address systemic problems in these organizations, the grantee conducted research on 44 schools and, collecting detailed information on nearly 2,600 staff and 5,000 children in residence. The survey also and evaluated the condition of the buildings. The information was compiled into a computer database which is currently used by the Ministry of Education, and the research report is available to the public. Based on the survey results, the grantee developed a draft law on the reform of childcare institutions, which is currently under review by the Parliament. The Ministry, in tandem with the grantee, is working on particular regulations, such as standards and charters for childcare institutions, admission criteria for children, etc. At the time of grant closure, 70 children had gone through the process of deinstitutionalization, in which children are returned to their families.

Georgia Union 21 Century

G03-0051

\$47,008

Tbilisi, Georgia

11/15/2003 - 8/31/2005

Protecting consumers from low-quality food products-and informing citizens of their rights as customers-are fundamental steps in a country where customer rights are desperately lacking. The grantee aimed at improving this situation by professionally testing food products sold at six major supermarkets and six bazaars in Tbilisi, as well as starting a public information and awareness-raising campaign. For the first time in Georgia, nutritional information for 6 of the most consumed foods was made public. Information on consumer rights was disseminated in 10 newspaper articles, 9 radio programs, and 8 thematic booklets (16,000 copies) and in specially-created consumer corners in large trading outlets. Information was made available to at least 10,000 consumers. In addition, the grantee established a new methodology for selecting shops and supermarkets trading high-quality products, and provided state bodies with recommendations for protecting consumer rights. Through conferences, meetings and other public events involving NGOs, media, state officials, international donors and other stakeholders, the grantee mobilized public opinion in support of project activities and submitted several drafts and initiatives on laws and regulations, including amendments to the law on

the protection of consumers' rights. The grantee submitted a concept for reorganizing the national anti-monopoly service, the national sanitary inspectorate, and the state standardizing committee. A significant part of these recommendations were accepted by the Georgian government.

Georgian Regional Media Association

G05-0034

\$46,449

Tbilisi, Georgia

2/21/2005 - 10/15/2005

Involvement of the media community in improving the national education system and in promoting educational reforms has been crucial for increasing public awareness, and ultimately a key to the reforms' success. The grantees trained 32 journalists and editors from 20 regional media outlets on education reform. The grantee subsequently published and distributed local-language newspaper supplements in Georgian (150,000 copies), Armenian (30,000 copies), and Azeri (30,000 copies).

The grantee has significantly improved public information and awareness of the importance of educational reforms, particularly in the regions populated with ethnic minorities. The minority groups targeted by the grantees reported that they received comprehensive information on changes to the educational system, and in particular on Georgia's first ever national qualifying exams for entrance into higher education. Further publicization of the reforms – through a website, www.grma.ge, which received 461 visitors over six months, as well as through seminars, public events, and an online conference with the Minister of Education – increased the number of informed citizens overall. In addition to its obvious benefits for education reform and civic oversight, the project also increased the grantee's organizational capacity and personnel qualifications, enhancing its role as a civic forum for NGOs and media outlets.

Independent TV and Radio Company "Lomsia" LTD

G03-9004

\$11,986

Akhaltzikhe, Georgia

9/1/2003 - 12/31/2003

Creating conditions for broad citizen participation in the electoral processes in Georgia's regions and strengthening the organizational capacity and independence of regional media are particularly important for emerging local democracy in Georgia. Lomsia TV Company won a grant competition run jointly by the Eurasia Foundation in Georgia, the Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF) and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). The grantee managed to provide timely and impartial coverage of Parliamentary elections on November 2, 2003 and Presidential elections on January 4, 2004. The grantee created 8 special election-related programs and 8 live talk-shows before, during and after the elections, including special editions on Election Day. The programs covered a broad representation of local political parties.

The project equipped the television with new facilities, enhancing the capacity of the TV Company Lomsia and allowing it to prepare more professional daily news releases, analytical programs and talk-shows. The new equipment allowed the grantee to connect more live and direct calls from citizens during the debate and improved the level of public participation. It also enabled the TV Company to exploit live on-site broadcasts for the first time. Despite these achievements, the TV Company still requires improved management. The Company failed to provide necessary documentation for licensing in time to the national communications commission and were refused an extension of their broadcasting license.

Zestaphoni Information Centre

G03-6015

\$22,039

Zestaphoni, Georgia

7/1/2003 - 1/31/2005

The process of local government development and decentralization is a relatively new experience in transitional Georgia. Key problems faced by local governments include: 1) limited transparency, demonstrated, for example, by the limited accessibility of public records, and 2) the lack of professionalism, skills and knowledge of local government members and staff, which limits their ability to perform duties efficiently and effectively.

The grantee was one of nine Georgian organizations to receive support under a linkage grant competition funded jointly by the US Agency for International Development and the Swiss Development Agency. The competition aimed to establish nine Local Government Information Centers (LGIC) in various regions of Georgia to promote an effective, transparent and professional system of local governance. The grantee developed a comprehensive database based on research into citizens' needs and priorities, which covered social and economic information on the municipality. They also organized open public meetings and developed and distributed monthly information bulletins on city council activities and major events regarding local governance. The center later became part of a network of nine Local Government Information Centers.

United Nations Association of Georgia

G04-0111

\$35,514

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2004 - 7/30/2005

The aim of the project was to initiate reforms in public administration and policy through elaboration and promotion of a Public Service Code. The United Nations Association of Georgia drafted the Public Service Code in cooperation with a group of experts. The grantee assessed and analyzed problems facing public servants in Georgia and examined national and international experience. Based on the information collected, the grantee developed a Public Service Code draft most fitting to Georgia. In the framework of the project, the organization initiated discussion meetings in 14 cities throughout Georgia, organized a conference involving public servants, issued brochures, and conducted a PR campaign to familiarize the population with the concept of public service. The UNAG lobbied for the Code in the Parliament of Georgia and in executive branches of the government. During the lobbying process, the draft public service code was actively discussed in the Committees of Legal and Procedural Issues. The Public Service Bureau, which was established by the government towards the end of the project, used the draft as a basis for developing the final version of the Code.

Kazakhstan

Association - Center for Small Business

A03-0116

\$23,218

Uralsk, Kazakhstan

9/1/2003 - 4/10/2005

More than half of trade between Russia and Kazakhstan takes place in the bordering regions, yet inefficient customs services limits this. This project aimed to decrease legal violations by customs officials and increase the flow of information among public associations, commercial organizations and state bodies involved in cross-border trade. The grantee created an information Web site, which contained more than 100 business proposals and legal information, and received more than 20,000 hits during the project period. The grantee published 12 issues of a newsletter featuring information on customs procedures. It gave more than 360 legal consultations to entrepreneurs. And it monitored three customs bodies. The grantee established a working relationship between the chambers of commerce of West Kazakhstan oblast and Saratov oblast. According to an opinion poll of entrepreneurs, the number of legal violations in the border area was halved from 2003 to 2004, and traders greatly increased constructive interaction with customs authorities.

New Economic School

A03-0121

\$22,896

Moscow, Russia

9/1/2003 - 6/30/2005

Kazakhstan lacks the ability to train economists of international caliber, needed to help it develop a market economy. This grant was the third in a series of grants to allow Kazakhstani students to pursue master's degrees at the New Economic School in Moscow and funded four scholarships. The results of developing a cadre of highly qualified economists will be seen only after several years.

Public Association Agency of Social Technologies and Development

A04-0049

\$7,069

Astana, Kazakhstan

4/11/2004 - 1/11/2005

The lack of productive citizen involvement in the development of government budgets in Kazakhstan results in a budget that does not necessarily respond to citizens needs. The project was designed to increase public involvement in municipal budget planning in Astana. The grantee trained local NGOs in budget monitoring in order to increase the efficiency of budget allocations for education programs and assistance to the disabled. In order to promote public interest in budget monitoring, the grantee organized two round-table meetings with the participation of city councilmen, representatives of regional governments, the Ministry of Economy and public organizations. To increase the capacity of public organizations to effectively engage in budget monitoring, handbooks and brochures on legal aspects of the budget planning process were prepared. These publications were presented at a seminar to 17 NGOs of the Akmolinsk and Kustanai regions. As a result of this and other seminars, two NGOs decided to play an active role in budget monitoring with the aim of protecting the interests of their constituencies. As a result of the project, budget recommendations presented by NGOs will be considered when formulating the 2005 Astana city budget.

Public Foundation "Perekrestok"

A04-0085

\$11,294

Kostanay, Kazakhstan

7/12/2004 - 4/30/2005

According to research of a Kazakhstani NGO focusing on the development of foster care, the number of orphans in Kazakhstan is growing. The project, aimed to replace institutional care with foster care, which enables orphans to live in families. In order to promote foster care, EF supported this project, conducted in Kostanay. It is one of five grants EF made to foster care organizations across Kazakhstan using funds from Philip Morris Kazakhstan. The grantee organized an information campaign through round tables and seminars with journalists in foster homes of Kostanay and Rudnyi, in an effort to improve public perception of orphans. During the project, the grantee organized social activities for children as well. Following the selection of foster families, 20 children spent their summer and fall holidays in 15 host families. At the end of the grant, a psychologist noted improvements in the children's behavior and mental health.

Public West Kazakhstan Fund for Support of Entrepreneurship

A04-0015

\$38,956

Uralsk, Kazakhstan

9/20/2004 - 9/20/2005

Small entrepreneurs often do not seek loans from banks, starving themselves of needed capital. The grantee conducted a survey of 211 businesspeople in Uralsk, and determined that entrepreneurs avoid banks because of high interest rates and collateral requirements. Also, more than half the respondents said they needed less than \$3,000. Based on this information, the grantee set up a micro lending operation, and made 36 loans. With funds from Karachaganak Petroleum Operating, b.v., the grantee bolstered its credit portfolio and provided loans that helped establish new businesses and expand existing ones. By the end of the grant period, the grantee became self-sufficient, covering operational expenses with income from interest on the bolstered credit portfolio. Additionally, it conducted impact evaluations of its activities as well as of the efficiency of the micro-loans on a permanent basis. As of the beginning of 2004, in response to a needs assessment report, the grantee provided a new financial product: loan repayment in even installments, as opposed to gradually increasing payments in the prior system.

Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek Academy of Finance and Economics

H05-0045

\$11,779

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

4/15/2005 - 7/15/2005

The rapid growth of the tourism industry in the Kyrgyz Republic today puts increased pressure on environmental resources, threatening the very natural beauty on which the industry depends. The project aimed to reduce this pressure by introducing innovative methods of ecological management to the hospitality industry in the North Issyk-Kul region. Local communities and travel agencies were engaged in the process of sustainable ecological planning and development of tourist services in the region. Over 50 tourism professionals received training on how to maintain international standards of environmental best practices. Five resorts on the north shore of Lake Issyk-Kul voluntarily underwent a pilot ecological audit and, on the basis of the outcome of this pilot project, standards for ecological audits were developed and published. In order to continue the practice and develop a system of voluntary ecological certification, the grantee established the Chamber of Ecological Auditors, the first ecological auditing institution in Central Asia. As tourists become more and more interested in eco-friendly services and products, sustainable environmental management will not only protect and preserve nature, it will also increase the economic potential of the tourism industry in the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia as a whole.

Business Incubator of Congress Women's of KR

H04-0083

\$6,811

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

6/1/2004 - 5/19/2005

Business Incubators (BI) have been a driving force behind the development of small and medium business enterprises in the Kyrgyz Republic, but additional outside funding is necessary to sustain the development of the incubators. In order to determine the needs of the Shopokov BI in Chui oblast, a grant was awarded to conduct an organizational evaluation and audit by an independent auditing company. The results showed that the business incubator was benefiting from a sufficient pool of resources; however, the organization lacks effective management and qualified professionals. The implementation of practical steps to improve the BI's management and professionalism would further private enterprise development in Chui oblast in the future.

Consulting Firm "Granat"

H03-0023

\$30,613

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

7/8/2003 - 3/15/2005

In the Kyrgyz Republic there is a lack of systemized economic analysis, which is relevant for economic planning and forecasting. In order to fill this gap the grantee developed and tested econometric models in two pilot regions of the country. During implementation the grantee prepared economic reviews of the tourism, banking and agro-industrial sectors, produced two regional reviews, published four issues of the economic bulletin, "Horizons of Management," in English and Russian, and developed methodological tools on assessing enterprise value and the effectiveness of banks. This project demonstrated that econometric models can be used effectively to rate banks and produce valuable analytical reviews of various sectors of the economy.

Economics Education and Research Consortium Inc./EERC

H05-0008

\$12,517

Moscow, Russia

2/18/2005 - 10/15/2005

In the growing Kyrgyz economy, there is a need for applied business and economics research on topics such as government, education reform, trade, and management of natural resources. However, Kyrgyz universities' potential to conduct high-quality applied research in business and economics is weak. To strengthen this potential, the grantee conducted an assessment of eight universities and their faculties in order to identify their potential to conduct applied research. The assessment showed that: 1) although universities had some experience in conducting applied research, with a few exceptions, the overall level of professionalism among professors was very low; 2) links between universities and businesses were very weak; and 3) a lack of available funds and the general poor practical skills of

researchers have prevented government ministries and businesses from using applied research effectively in their work. The grantee also held meetings with a number of national government ministries, local government agencies and private companies with the goal of discussing possible applied research projects. As part of a larger project, 40 professors in the Kyrgyz Republic will receive fellowships to carry out research projects on a range of topics such as the politics of reducing poverty and unemployment, small- and medium- business growth, analysis of the labor market and demand for workers with secondary and higher education, and corruption in higher education. This grant is part of the regional Central Asia Applied Research Network project, which is co-funded by numerous corporate and foreign government donors such as Kuntor Operating Company, BITEL, Ispat Karmet, Tengizchevroil, Kazkommertsbank, Information Future Social Fund, InterBishkek, Dordoi Association, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), CARANA Corporation, and the Global Development Network (GDN).

Kyrgyz Community Based Tourism Association

H03-0173

\$24,724

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

3/18/2004 - 3/17/2005

Although Community Based Tourism (CBT) has a great potential to increase income generation in impoverished rural communities in the Kyrgyz Republic, rural CBT groups are unable to build on this potential and attract sufficient tourists to become sustainable. To support sustainable growth of CBT in rural areas, the grantee conducted 27 seminars attended by 570 members of CBT groups on business planning, skill building, and marketing, as well as assisted them in establishing critical business ties in the tourist industry. The grantee also issued 500 copies of a tourist guide, 3,200 brochures, as well as 10,000 booklets on CBT and 500 copies of a CD-ROM. As part of the project the grantee helped target communities organize an electronic network to connect them with each other, as well as with local and international tourist providers. The project, co-funded by USAID and the Swiss Association for International Cooperation Helvetas, expanded the number of community-based tourism providers, as well as their international contacts, increasing the potential for financial growth in the sector.

Newspaper "Fergana"

H03-0902

\$18,091

Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan

9/26/2003 - 8/10/2005

In the Ferghana Valley, many residents have little or no access to news and information from neighboring countries. To address this problem, newspapers from each of the three neighboring countries created the Neighbors newspaper insert, where information about important issues is printed in Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek, and Russian. The grantee partners each published 22 issues of the insert, 12,000 copies of which were distributed in Uzbekistan, 3,000 in Tajikistan, and 4,400 in the Kyrgyz Republic. In more than 243 articles, the newspapers touched upon relevant problems such as: border crossings; migration; growth of small businesses; ecological, economic, and transportation problems; distribution of water, electrical and heating resources; and a search for resolutions to one of the most potentially dangerous problems in the region - interethnic conflict. Employees of the three partner newspapers attended two professional journalism trainings with experts from the BBC, with additional support from CIMERA. The three newspapers received a large volume of letters addressed to the editors of the Neighbors insert. These letters reflect the resonance of the cross-border theme with the local population. The partners prepared a recommendation letter to the local governments of border areas, parliamentarians, oblast-level governments, customs and border authorities and security services in which they analyzed reader mail and suggestions, expert opinions and suggestions from the project participants. The publication of the insert serves as an example of real cooperation between mass media and government in the Ferghana Valley.

Public Foundation "Development and Cooperation in Central Asia"

H03-0027

\$16,909

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

6/18/2003 - 12/17/2004

Ethnic Kyrgyz who fled Tajikistan during the civil war from 1992 to 1997 often have difficulty adapting to life in the Kyrgyz Republic because of low incomes, a continuing dependency on humanitarian aid, and negative societal perceptions. In order to help integrate ethnic Kyrgyz refugees from Tajikistan into Kyrgyz society and to improve their standard of living, the grantee formed and

trained 12 NGOs on how to organize and develop self-help groups among this vulnerable population. The trained NGOs formed 45 self-help groups in the southern Kyrgyz Republic, each of which is made up of 15 refugee families. Thirty of the self-help groups then qualified for access to \$5,700 in micro-credit loans, provided by a partner organization of the grantee. As a result of the project, 675 families received entrepreneurial skills training and micro-financing through the self-help groups. The project empowered refugees with tools to improve their quality of life, freeing them from dependency on humanitarian assistance.

Public Foundation "SIFE-Centre-South"

H02-0917 \$20,049

Osh, Kyrgyzstan 9/26/2003 - 3/5/2005

In the Ferghana Valley there is a poorly developed system of teaching young entrepreneurs, which is one of the factors limiting the economic growth of the region. To address this problem, three student business associations in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan created this project, designed to prepare a new generation of businessmen in the region. The grantee partners established 14 new Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) teams among higher education institutions in the region, trained 346 people and provided 1,765 consultations to students on business planning and cross-border trade. The grantees also held 48 meetings between students and businesses, and found work for 109 people. Representatives from the Ferghana Valley participated in the 2003 SIFE World Cup in Germany and in the 2004 World Cup in Spain. At the regional competition SIFE-Ferghana 2004, participants presented 126 projects, in the area of business, education and social work. The grantees conducted an information campaign about the project, including publishing and distributing informational materials, 500 copies of the SIFE Handbook 2003-2004, 1,000 SIFE brochures, 500 SIFE Central Asia yearbooks for 2003-04, and 107 sets of video and photographic materials. The grantee also distributed a number of materials to local and regional media: 30 newspaper articles, 24 television advertisements, and five radio advertisements.

Public Fund of Assistance to the Development of Legal Infrastructure and Education

H03-0221 \$16,800

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2/10/2004 - 2/19/2005

Labor migrants from the Kyrgyz Republic are subject to legal and rights abuses while leaving home in search of work. In order to draw attention to the problems faced by labor migrants, the grantee carried out a research survey of 300 labor migrants living in three major Russian cities. The grantee published and distributed a report on the results of its research among local and international NGOs and government officials interested in labor migration issues. The grantee also presented their results and recommendations for future steps at a roundtable with representatives of the Kyrgyz and Russian governments and civil society, who laid a foundation for cooperation on legal and policy issues related to labor migration. The Eurasia Foundation used the research results and recommendations when designing its labor migration initiative, which includes a legal component implemented by the grantee, launched in September 2005.

Public Fund of Protection and Assistance to Youth "OASIS"

A02-7133 \$19,000

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 3/7/2003 - 2/28/2005

Youth are often subject to legal abuses, and are often disaffected from society. The grantee set up a support center which provided 336 legal consultations during the grant period. The grantee also staged an information campaign to raise awareness of rights. This included creating a web site that has received more than 60,000 visits. The grantee strengthened its status, gaining support from the U.S. Embassy, Soros Kyrgyzstan, the United Nations and a Dutch development organization, HIVOS.

Public Union "Kol-Kabysh"

H02-0019 \$21,403

Naryn, Kyrgyzstan 6/18/2003 - 9/30/2005

Because of limited access to national television, radio and print media, residents of Naryn Oblast are ill-informed about political and economic issues in the Kyrgyz Republic. To address this problem, the grantee aired 36 analytical news programs about the work of local government, small- and medium-

sized business growth, NGO activities, and issues such as land rights reform. The grantee also aired 50 informational news programs on a variety of socio-economic issues in Russian and Kyrgyz. In order to strengthen the grantee's programming, five grantee employees underwent training with the independent television station Pyramida on creating effective programs on social issues. Additionally, the grantee arranged for two consultants to provide advice on technical and programmatic aspects of operating a television and radio company. The organization received a license from the federal communications agency, the result of a highly competitive process, which will enable it to broadcast for five years. The grantee raised additional funds from the land reform project of Chemonics International and from Internews Network. Thanks to the success of this project, the grantee also recently received a grant from Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan to create a website for the independent television and news company Shankai (founder and parent company of the grantee) in Naryn Oblast. The grantee commissioned four independent surveys of viewers and experts about program quality, which revealed that the majority of the Naryn Oblast population prefers to get news from television and radio, rather than newspapers, and showed an overall high viewer satisfaction rating. Audience members also expressed a desire to see more legal-themed programs, educational and cultural programs aimed at youth, programs that shed light on the problems of local farmers, small business owners, and workers in cultural fields, and programs that facilitate dialogue between regional administrations and civil society on various issues. In the future, the grantee will expand its programming to respond to this audience feedback.

Public Union "Youth of Jalalabat"

H05-0901

\$3,000

Jalalabat, Kyrgyzstan

7/26/2005 - 10/26/2005

In the Ferghana Valley toughening border policies have curtailed information exchange and cross-border cooperation. Other problems, such as poverty, high unemployment rates and religious tension have added to pressure on ethnic relations, increasing the potential for conflict in the region. Young people are particularly affected by these developments. To provide youth an opportunity to interact and strengthen international cooperation among youth organizations in the region, the grantee conducted a youth forum in the Jalalabat region. The forum had a wide resonance; the participants were officially welcomed by the head of the administration of the Jalalabat region and other government representatives, an event at which 150 local students were also present. At the forum, leaders from 24 youth organizations from the Kyrgyz Republic, two from Tajikistan and two from Uzbekistan discussed current problems facing the Ferghana Valley's youth and proposed solutions, possible coalitions and joint project proposals. The organizations at the forum identified youth employment, corruption in higher education, lack of professionalism of youth organizations and the lack of participation of youth in decision making as issues to tackle in future projects. As a result of the forum five new coalitions of youth groups were established, which started working together and developed several regional projects, three of which were recently submitted to EF for funding.

Public Women's Organization "Kyrgyz Heritage"

H04-0041

\$26,941

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

6/1/2004 - 6/30/2005

Artisans in the Kyrgyz Republic have difficulty marketing their products due to inferior quality and design, as well as a lack of knowledge of new technologies. In order to promote the development of patchwork art, the grantee arranged master classes for 298 artisans in Bishkek city and Talas, Naryn and Chui oblasts in design and use of materials. The grantee published and distributed to 49 organizations 1,000 copies of a catalog of patchwork art in Russian, English and Kyrgyz for the promotion of patchwork items. A design studio was established to provide regular trainings and promotional activities to increase sales. The project enabled individual artisans as well patchwork craft organizations to enhance their production and generate over \$2000 during the project.

The Public Technology Center

H05-0114

\$1,864

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

6/1/2005 - 6/30/2005

The development of public policy in the Kyrgyz Republic has traditionally been based on only the opinions of government officials, excluding civil society from the decision-making process. The

project aimed to increase community participation in public administration by providing a forum for discussion and developing methods for transparent management. The grantee organized a conference for 122 representatives of local and international NGOs, businesses and government structures. The conference provided an opportunity for the participants to learn about international experiences and develop practical solutions for public dialogue in the Kyrgyz Republic and other countries in Central Asia today. The networks and models that were developed during the project will enable future decision making in public policy to be more inclusive and transparent. The project was co-financed by the Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan.

Moldova

League for the Defense of Human Rights in Moldova

K05-0020

\$21,111

Chisinau, Moldova

2/25/2005 - 4/30/2005

Despite a relatively good history of adhering to international standards in organizing elections, Moldova under Communist rule had seen some serious setbacks and irregularities during the 2003 local elections. Accordingly, many Moldovan advocacy organizations and expert groups had feared that 2005 parliamentary elections could be subject to further manipulation and fraud. In this context, in March 2004, an initiative group of civil society organizations formed a Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. With membership reaching close to 200 organizations, the coalition developed a strategy to help ensure that elections would be conducted more freely and fairly.

In support of one of the coalition's objectives - to eliminate possible frauds at ballot counting - the grantee conducted for the first time in Moldova a parallel vote tabulation (PVT) project - a separate counting of votes conducted by independent observers. The grantee hired an expert from Serbia to help design the PVT and train 39 Moldovans in the necessary methodology. These Moldovans then formed mobile teams that covered all parts of the country. In total, 2,184 volunteer observers helped collect protocols from voting precincts and submitted them to the mobile teams. Two days later, the grantee presented the PVT results, findings and observations in a press conference. Only minor variances with the official count were noted.

Moldovan and international observers saw the PVT as an authoritative and independent confirmation that the vote count was valid. As the PVT confirmed that high-level fraud did not take place, the citizens of Moldova accepted the results of the elections. International observers also confirmed that performance during Election Day was mostly in line with accepted standards. In addition, the tools developed within the project will most certainly be used for subsequent elections in Moldova.

Independent Journalism Center

K04-0305

\$32,756

Chisinau, Moldova

10/1/2004 - 8/15/2005

Despite a relatively good history of adhering to international standards in organizing elections, Moldova under Communist rule had seen some serious setbacks and irregularities during the 2003 local elections. Accordingly, many Moldovan advocacy organizations and expert groups had feared that 2005 parliamentary elections could be subject to further manipulation and fraud. In this context, in March 2004, an initiative group of civil society organizations formed a Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. With membership reaching close to 200 organizations, the coalition developed a strategy to help ensure that elections would be conducted more freely and fairly.

In support of one of the coalition's objectives - to monitor the mass media and to encourage it to respect international principles and standards in covering the election campaign - the grantee conducted the first ever comprehensive media monitoring campaign in the history of independent Moldova. With assistance from a British media watchdog, the grantee designed a comprehensive media monitoring technique to analyze the content of 34 media outlets, including national and local TV and radio stations as well as printed media. The findings were disseminated via seven regularly issued reports and three news conferences.

On the whole, the monitoring reports showed that the media consistently favored the government-sponsored candidates. Although government officials often accused the grantee of biased reporting, the monitoring results were used by advocacy organizations to pressure the government into a more balanced media policy. The results of this pressure were relatively successful - two weeks before the election, the government increased airtime for opposition candidates.

NGO "Sirius"

K04-0146

\$4,989

Soroca, Moldova

7/15/2004 - 7/25/2005

Large-scale corruption is a nearly universal phenomenon in transitional democracies. International studies indicate that corruption in Moldova is still on the rise, despite the fact that the country has had a strict legal anti-corruption framework in place for almost four years. The grantee worked to address corruption at the community level by helping local officials initiate practices of good governance in seven small towns surrounding the city of Soroca.

The grantee conducted an information campaign and organized a seminar and two workshops on increasing transparency in the local decision-making process and the consequences of corruption. In total 22 representatives from local and regional government organs participated. The grantee also helped mayors to install informational bulletin boards and to conduct public hearings to solicit public feedback on issues that are important to the community. To raise awareness of the project activities, the grantee also published several articles in local newspapers and conducted a program on local TV.

The grant activities were part of EF's larger Anti-Corruption Network program, which increased public participation in solving local problems in target communities and increased the transparency of local public administrations' activities. The grantee's experience promoting good governance and increased transparency could be further developed for reducing corruption in local governments.

Women's Association of Sanatauca Village

K04-0140

\$2,657

Moldova

7/15/2004 - 7/15/2005

Large-scale corruption is a nearly universal phenomenon in transitional democracies. International studies indicate that corruption in Moldova is still on the rise, despite the fact that the country has had a strict legal anti-corruption framework in place for almost four years. The grantee worked to address corruption in six rural communities in the Soroca region. The grantee established a support center for anticorruption activities, where they provided free legal consultations to over 100 victims of corruption. They also organized 10 seminars for youth and local public authorities where they discussed real-life cases of corruption. The grantee also published 600 copies of a legal handbook and 1,000 copies of an informational booklet on anticorruption issues, and distributed them in the six target communities. The project activities were part of EF's larger Anti-Corruption Network program, which increased public awareness on issues of corruption, its causes and consequences. The grantee's practices may be replicated in other communities in order to decrease public tolerance for corruption.

Union of Young Roma from Moldova "Tarna Rom"

K04-0378

\$7,291

Chisinau, Moldova

2/1/2005 - 6/20/2005

Despite a relatively good history of adhering to international standards in organizing elections, Moldova under Communist rule had seen some serious setbacks and irregularities during the 2003 local elections. Accordingly, many Moldovan advocacy organizations and expert groups had feared that 2005 parliamentary elections could be subject to further manipulation and fraud. In this context, in March 2004, an initiative group of civil society organizations formed a Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. With membership reaching close to 200 organizations, the coalition developed a strategy to help ensure that elections would be conducted more freely and fairly.

In support of one of the coalition's objectives - to foster civic education and encourage increased turnout during the 2005 parliamentary elections - the Association of Young Roma "Tarna-Rom" conducted an information campaign on civic and voter education in 10 Roma communities, using materials produced by other members of Coalition 2005. The association also assisted 10 Roma leaders to get accredited as electoral observers in their communities on Election Day. This project was the first voter education program to target the Roma community in Moldova. There was a higher turnout of ethnic Roma voters than in previous elections. In some communities, almost 90% of the eligible population voted based on the grantee's estimates.

Russia

Press Development Institute - Siberia

M03-0538

\$35,575

Novosibirsk, Russia

6/17/2004 - 10/31/2005

Independent media in eastern Siberia lack opportunities for professional journalism training. This grant was awarded to support the development of independent regional media in Eastern Siberia by creating a permanent School of Economic Journalism. The School, established on the campus of Novosibirsk Institute of Press Development (IPD), raised the qualification of journalists covering economic issues in their town and region. More than 30 journalists were trained in eight seminars, and a training program combined theory as well as practical courses. An Internet based resource, "School of Economic Journalism," was created to provide the opportunity for distance learning.

Professional Association of Cultural Managers

M04-0062

\$34,698

Moscow, Russia

5/17/2004 - 8/31/2005

Although some socio-cultural projects have been implemented in Karelia, one of the country's richest region in terms of cultural heritage and traditions, practical applications of such projects has been lacking. This grant was awarded to improve quality of life in the rural areas of Karelia through identification and practical implementation of prospective socio-cultural projects. In the frame of the project, 26 municipality representatives and local cultural institutions were educated on how to identify and estimate the cultural potential of their territories and effectively use that potential for territorial development. They were also trained on socio-cultural project development and management. As a result, 26 socio-cultural project were developed and presented to the wide public. \$13 000 were attracted from local sources for the implementation of the six projects. Projects results were presented and summarized at the final round table that brought together Republican authorities, local businesses, and public non-profit organizations interested in community development. A brochure was issued about the project results.

Republican Center of Social Assistance for Children and Families "SAMPO"

M03-0453

\$25,260

Petrozavodsk, Russia

12/1/2003 - 1/31/2005

Citizens are rarely fully aware of the services they are entitled to from their local government and from non-profit organizations. This grant was awarded to improve the quality of social services for families in the city of Petrozavodsk by increasing local awareness of the social services provided by state, municipal and non-profit organizations. Project activities were only partially fulfilled. The grantee studied both the demand for and availability of social services, collecting information and compiling a database. Detailed information about each social service program was added to the database, including aid forms and community suggestions regarding the improvement of social services. Unfortunately, the planned website was not created. In the project framework, seven information bulletins were developed and one publication placed in the local media.

Far Eastern State Agrarian University

V05-0012

\$27,030

Blagoveschensk, Russia

2/19/2005 - 12/31/2005

Amur Oblast - an agricultural area located in the Russian Far East (RFE) - suffers from intellectual brain drain and seeks new approaches to address this problem. One approach was implemented by the Far Eastern State Agrarian University (FESAU). A team of its specialists studied and replicated the experience of Russian university career centers in order to increase the employment of Amur Oblast university graduates and retain the intellectual potential in the region. The FESAU Career Center created a Web site (www.career.bfmap.ru) and promoted potential benefits of cooperation to prospective partners and stakeholders (employers, rectors and administrators of educational establishments, recruiting agencies and government officials) at a range of public events. This resulted in the creation of a Coordinating Council, which today deals with youth employment issues on a regular basis by sharing best practices among the membership. Another segment of the project was

devoted to trainings, such as a seminar for 50 career technology teachers from universities and technical schools. In addition, the project team developed and disseminated informational booklets and trained more than 800 students in job-search technology. In general, the FESAU Center provided services for more than 1,100 students from several educational establishments and increased the number of its employer-clients from 103 in 2004 to 172 in 2005. These activities, along with five job fairs, helped 679 young professionals to find jobs at local and RFE enterprises (versus 112 who found jobs in the region in 2004). This project was part of the RFE Labor Market Reform program funded by the Ford Foundation.

Far Eastern State University of Transportation

V05-0003

\$23,064

Khabarovsk, Russia

2/19/2005 - 12/31/2005

In the Russian Far East (RFE), university graduates have a difficult time finding employment and are thus likely to leave the region in search of work. Two primary contributors to this problem are a lack of available services to assist students seeking jobs and weak connections between educational institutions and the labor market. To address these issues in Khabarovsk Krai, the Far Eastern State University of Transportation (FESUT, Khabarovsk) established a Career Center (www.festu.khv.ru). Based on a study of best practices of Russian educational institutions, the Center's specialists developed career services and educational materials for students, employers and job-search technology teachers. The project team also initiated a series of seminars and round tables to introduce the career center, share results of a study of the job market, and collect ideas and recommendations from higher education institutions, employers and other potential partners on how to support young professionals more effectively. To promote cooperation among universities and key players in the labor market, as well as assist university graduates to locate employment, the Center organized a job fair and a Best Graduate Competition that promoted professionalism and active job searching behaviors. The Center also trained about 600 students on job search techniques and provided consultations for more than 200 representatives of prospective employers on how to work with young specialists. As a result, today about 400 FESUT students receive special training through the career technology course, 15 local companies are involved in presenting lectures and master-classes for alumni, and 60 local and RFE organizations announce their vacancies and participate in job fairs and other events inspired by the Center. During the 2004-2005 academic year, FESUT marked a 2% increase in the number of students and alumni who received job offers from prospective employers. This project was part of the RFE Labor Market Reform program funded by the Ford Foundation.

Komsomolsk-na-Amure State Technical University

V05-0004

\$25,332

Komsomolsk-na-Amure, Russia

2/19/2005 - 12/31/2005

Khabarovsk Krai, along with the rest of the Russian Far East (RFE), suffers from the dramatic outflow of population. Most of those leaving the Krai are young professionals - the human and developmental potential of the territory. The problem is the most evident in the northeastern part of the region. To develop a system for assisting students in northeastern Khabarovsk Krai to integrate into the labor market, the Career Center of the Komsomolsk-on-Amur State Technical University developed educational materials on effective job search techniques and organized trainings for about 30 teachers from the four local education institutions. The teachers then trained students: more than 300 students received training at the university (vs. 45 in 2004), and more than 450 young people received training at new programs started by other educational establishments. In addition, the project specialists who trained the teachers also provided trainings and consultations for more than 900 students and organized a job fair, a Students' Forum and a series of student self-presentations before prospective employers. To broaden access to information pertaining to youth employment for young specialists, employers and other players in the labor market, the Center created a Web site (www.knastu.ru/career) and established contacts with colleagues and partners in other RFE regions to exchange information and experience. A Board of Trustees for the Lower Amur Education District was also created. Among the responsibilities of this board is to recommend changes in the educational curriculum of the schools in the district, and specifically to make the graduates' qualifications closer to the needs of local employers. In addition, to date 640 students - about 40% of the Center's clients - have received job offers from local

organizations and enterprises. This project was part of the RFE Labor Market Reform program funded by the Ford Foundation.

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services

V04-0160

\$47,314

Vladivostok, Russia

11/5/2004 - 11/14/2005

Intellectual brain drain is one of the most pressing problems for the Russian Far East (RFE), which suffers from a lingering crisis marked by a rising cost of living, growing unemployment and, as a result, an outflow of qualified specialists and university graduates. The reason is that the local economies and labor markets are not ready to adopt them. To address this issue, the Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services (VSUES) implemented this project to increase universities' capacity to improve students' job skills and to enable partnerships of organizations operating in the RFE educational and labor markets. The VSUES Career Center organized a cross-regional seminar on how to run a university career center, create a board of trustees and establish cooperation with prospective employers and local partners. More than 54 specialists from 23 RFE universities, governing bodies, and state and private employment agencies attended. VSUES provided follow-up consultations and trainings, and published and distributed among teachers and students materials on job placement and career technologies. As a result, four universities reorganized their student and alumni employment services, and two universities made all necessary preparations to create boards of trustees. The VSUES Career Center increased its effectiveness as well: compared to the previous academic year, it marked a 30% increase of its student clientele, a 6% increase in the number of employed VSUES graduates, and broadened contacts with prospective employers. VSUES also created a Cross-Regional Information Exchange Network, a common RFE Internet portal (www.career.vvsu.ru) that to date has proved its importance by an increasing attention and interest on the part of more than 400 users representing universities, their partners, and employers and job seekers. University career centers are also using the network to discuss common issues and exchange successful practices. After project completion, VSUES will maintain this new Internet resource using its own funds. This project was part of the RFE Labor Market Reform program funded by the Ford Foundation.

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services

V05-0032

\$21,969

Vladivostok, Russia

12/14/2005 - 3/25/2006

Brain drain is a tremendous problem in the Russian Far East (RFE). In the past decade, the population of the Far East Federal District has dropped by roughly 1.5 million people, many of whom were university graduates who left the region in search of employment. To collect and promote best practices for retaining graduates in local job markets, the Eurasia Foundation (EF) invited the Graduate Center of the Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services (VSUES) - the most experienced university career center in the RFE - to organize a three-day Cross-Regional Scientific and Practical Conference. The conference, titled "University Graduates' Employment Experience in the RFE," was a concluding event for EF's 18-month Labor Market Reform Project, implemented to help RFE universities bring their graduates' qualifications closer to the needs of local employers and link young professionals to job opportunities in the region. Held in Vladivostok in February 2006, the conference convened more than 100 educational institutions, employers and career agencies to learn more about approaches to youth employment at a range of trainings, workshops and round-tables.

A special challenge before the participants was to foster the development of a pilot Information Exchange Network created under the Project to exchange information and stimulate cooperation among the key players in educational institutions and labor markets across the region. To assist participants in this task, a skilled networking practitioner shared her 10-year experience of working with the Siberian Non-Profit Network. As a result, the conference elected an Editorial Committee to draft the Network regulations, which then were posted to the Network Web site (www.career.vvsu.ru) along with the other conference materials for further discussion and improvement by both acting and prospective Network participants. The conference recommended topics for six Internet forums, two of which were held in March 2006.

In addition, the VSUES team updated methodological and analytical sections of the Network Web site and improved the navigation mechanism for searching resumes and vacancies. As a result, the number of users doubled and the site became known as an information and communication resource between Network events. According to conference participants, the conference significantly promoted new partnerships and contributed in spreading best practices focused on retaining educated youth in the RFE. This grant was part of the RFE Labor Market Reform Project funded by the Ford Foundation.

Tajikistan

Association of Producers and Art Enterprises Milal-Inter

T03-0191

\$24,113

Khorog, Tajikistan

6/1/2004 - 8/31/2005

The Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Province is cut off by high mountains from the rest of Tajikistan. But its 700-kilometer border with Afghanistan is easier to cross, thanks to several new bridges, and the people on both sides share a common language and heritage. With the fall of the Taliban, an opportunity emerged to restore trade ties cut first by the Cold War and then by active conflict. The grantee set up a consultation center for Tajik businesses interested in trade; collected marketing data and published it in a tri-lingual newsletter; held seminars for 250 businesspeople from both sides of the border; worked with border and customs officials to allow trade; and brought together high-level officials and businesspeople in two roundtables. As a result, Tajik and Afghan government representatives signed one agreement, and business NGOs a second, to expand commercial and other ties. The grantee also played a major role in opening three weekly cross-border markets, which are visited by thousands from both sides. During the grant period, legitimate cross-border trade reportedly increased by 30 percent, the variety of goods traded increased to more than 50 categories from 10, and prices for several staple goods reportedly decreased on the Tajik side. Also, following the grant, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe sponsored a trade conference. The project results and the strong interest shown by citizens and government officials on both sides point to the need for further Tajik-Afghan cross-border projects.

Information - Analytical Agency "Varorud" Ltd.

T03-1902

\$14,628

Khujand, Tajikistan

10/1/2003 - 11/30/2004

In the Ferghana Valley, many residents have little or no access to news and information from neighboring countries. To address this problem, newspapers from each of the three neighboring countries created the Neighbors newspaper insert, where information about important issues is printed in Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek, and Russian. The grantee partners each published 22 issues of the insert, 12,000 copies of which were distributed in Uzbekistan, 3,000 in Tajikistan, and 4,400 in the Kyrgyz Republic. In more than 243 articles, the newspapers touched upon relevant problems such as: border crossings; migration; growth of small businesses; ecological, economic, and transportation problems; distribution of water, electrical and heating resources; and a search for resolutions to one of the most potentially dangerous problems in the region - interethnic conflict. Employees of the three partner newspapers attended two professional journalism trainings with experts from the BBC, with additional support from CIMERA. The three newspapers received a large volume of letters addressed to the editors of the Neighbors insert. These letters reflect the resonance of the cross-border theme with the local population. The partners prepared a recommendation letter to the local governments of border areas, parliamentarians, oblast-level governments, customs and border authorities and security services in which they analyzed reader mail and suggestions, expert opinions and suggestions from the project participants. The publication of the insert serves as an example of real cooperation between mass media and government in the Ferghana Valley.

NGO Fatkh

T02-1911

\$30,501

Khujand, Tajikistan

9/12/2003 - 10/11/2004

In the impoverished Ferghana Valley, the development of artisans' organizations is an important method of improving private enterprise, and therefore the economic growth of the region. Three professional artisans' organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan created a partnership project to help local artisans develop their businesses and increase their production regionally and internationally. The grantees created a database of 1,004 individual artisans and 26 artisans' organization and created print and electronic maps of artisans' locations in the Ferghana Valley. The partners also trained 285 artisans and provided consultations to 534 on marketing and business development. The grantees organized the region's first-ever Ferghana Valley crafts fair, and participated in fairs in Tashkent and Almaty, where the participating artisans earned over \$7,000. The

grantees publicized the results of the project widely, in 44 articles and a documentary film. The project resulted in the creation of over 65 new jobs, and improved artisanship development in the Ferghana Valley.

NGO Parallax

T03-0143

\$16,561

Kulyab, Tajikistan

1/1/2004 - 2/28/2005

Tajikistan's high level of corruption slows the growth of private businesses. The grantee attempted to address this problem in the Kulyab region by training 200 small-business people in their legal rights, publishing a booklet and monthly newsletters and airing two television shows addressing legal issues, and setting up a resource center which was visited by 269 people during the project period. While it is difficult to measure the impact of this single project on the business environment, beneficiaries demonstrated a demand for projects in this sphere.

Public Foundation "SIFE-Center"

T02-1917

\$25,104

Khujand, Tajikistan

9/12/2003 - 2/15/2005

In the Ferghana Valley there is a poorly developed system of teaching young entrepreneurs, which is one of the factors limiting the economic growth of the region. To address this problem, three student business associations in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan created this project, designed to prepare a new generation of businessmen in the region. The grantee partners established 14 new Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) teams among higher education institutions in the region, trained 346 people and provided 1,765 consultations to students on business planning and cross-border trade. The grantees also held 48 meetings between students and businesses, and found work for 109 people. Representatives from the Ferghana Valley participated in the 2003 SIFE World Cup in Germany and in the 2004 World Cup in Spain. At the regional competition SIFE-Ferghana 2004, participants presented 126 projects, including 78 business projects, 77 educational projects, and 49 social work projects. The grantees conducted an information campaign about the project, including publishing and distributing informational materials, 500 copies of the SIFE Handbook 2003-2004, 1,000 SIFE brochures, 500 SIFE Central Asia yearbooks for 2003-04, and 107 sets of video and photographic materials. The grantee also distributed a number of materials to local and regional media: 30 newspaper articles, 24 television advertisements, and five radio advertisements.

NGO "Mavzuna-2001"

T03-0137

\$11,317

Novobod settlement, Tajikistan

1/1/2004 - 4/30/2005

Business consulting and training can help accelerate the development of private enterprise in a developing economy. The grantee set up a business resource center in space donated by the local government, gave more than 270 consultations, and made available business and legal literature. It also taught 80 people business basics, and issued 10 editions of a business oriented newsletter. After receiving training, several beneficiaries received microcredit. The project's main result was the NGO's ability to form a partnership with the local government to try to develop the local economy.

Ukraine

Association of Independent Press

K04-0306

\$41,271

Chisinau, Moldova

10/1/2004 - 5/20/2005

Despite a relatively good history of adhering to international standards in organizing elections, Moldova under Communist rule had seen some serious setbacks and irregularities during the 2003 local elections. Accordingly, many Moldovan advocacy organizations and expert groups had feared that the 2005 parliamentary elections could be subject to further manipulation and fraud. In this context, in March 2004, an initiative group of civil society organizations formed a Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. With membership reaching close to 200 organizations, the coalition developed a strategy to help ensure that elections would be conducted more freely and fairly.

In support of one of the coalition's objectives - to provide balanced information on the electoral campaign to the general public - the grantee published 15 issues of a newspaper insert and distributed it through 17 national and regional newspapers. All in all, the grantee published more than one million copies of inserts distributed nationwide over a period of seven months. The grantee estimates that the inserts reached over 200,000 individual readers. The newspaper inserts covered election related issues and provided much-needed information on voting procedures. Despite some challenges with maintaining a balanced perspective, the insert proved to be useful to its readers, as seen by the high volume of positive feedback received by the editorial team.

Chernigiv Oblast Institute for Local Development

K04-0217

\$12,961

Chernigiv, Ukraine

10/1/2004 - 7/31/2005

People in Ukraine's more remote regions need to find innovative ways to diversify their local economies. Traditional folk arts and crafts can contribute to the rural economy if properly marketed and if reliable distribution networks are set up. The grantee wanted to conduct a training program to help small businesses improve, develop and market their handicraft products.

The project trained 35 clients and provided 94 individual consultations. The grantee also produced promotional materials, including a how-to manual. At the end of the 9-month project, four new handicraft businesses started and existing businesses saw a 30% increase in profit. The new distribution channels established under the project reached as far as Germany.

Democratic Union of Youth Kharkiv Oblast Youth Public Organization

K04-0370

\$3,774

Kharkiv, Ukraine

1/20/2005 - 7/8/2005

The collapse of the Soviet Union's generous subsidies and system of social payments has affected single low-income pensioners and people with disabilities more than any other sector of society. What remains of the state-sponsored social safety net is poorly managed and covers only a very small percentage of the costs required for the survival of the most needy. Increasingly, corporate sponsors and private charities are filling the gap left by the state's waning abilities to provide support. The grantee developed an innovative mechanism for distributing food packages to the most needy members of Kharkiv city through partnership with a corporate donor and state agencies. With financial support from Philip Morris Ukraine, the grantee, a local NGO, cooperated with the city's Department of Labor and Social Protection and its network of social workers to select 8,000 beneficiaries and provide them with food packages. The program spurred local businesses to engage in philanthropic activities, too. Eight articles in local newspapers were published and three news spots were broadcast covering issues regarding private philanthropy. The grantee also developed a case study for use by other companies, NGOs and governments. An outside evaluation of the project showed that all stakeholders were pleased with the results of the program. The corporate donor was so pleased with the approach that it plans on expanding the program in the near future.

Dnipropetrovsk Science and Technology Park

K04-0022

\$39,158

Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

4/20/2004 - 4/30/2005

Small businesses represent the backbone of economic innovation, diversification, and growth. In Ukraine, although there has been some progress made in small business development over the last few years, the government's approach tends to be top down and state-driven, rarely providing the opportunity for smaller, regional projects to foster. Taking a demand-driven approach, the Eurasia Foundation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe initiated a program called "Local Economic Development," targeting small towns and rural regions. One of the program's regional partners, the Dnipropetrovsk Science and Technology Park, conducted a comprehensive campaign to training start-up businessmen and improve the small business environment in three rayons of the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. In partnership with state employment centers, the grantee trained 402 persons and provided 1,332 individual consultations. The grantee also created an electronic library of SME development resources and published six bulletins called "Regional Economic Development" offering advice for small business owners and start-ups. Finally, the grantee assisted local government officials in drafting programs to assist young business leaders in Nikopol and women's business development in Petrikivka. The project led to some successes which central government authorities have noted and which other regions have expressed an interest in replicating. 158 different business plans were developed, and project participants successfully applied to their local State Employment Centers for \$59,600 in loans. The grantee attracted an additional \$10,000 from the various government authorities for supporting small business development. As a result, the project helped create 71 new jobs and 158 new businesses. The project also helped increase the number of small businesses in the target regions by 13%.

Foundation for Social and Legal Defense of the Population "ROL"

K03-0085

\$40,194

Kyiv, Ukraine

9/1/2003 - 11/15/2004

Ukrainian civil society organizations have few opportunities for lobbying the government despite significant development in the last decade, their expertise remains largely unutilized. As a result, NGOs are unable perform one of their most important functions - representing the public's interests to lawmakers.

To address this issue, the grantee established a Parliament Club of NGOs, a platform for direct contact between parliamentarians and NGOs. The Club's goals were to expand NGO access to legislators and to increase public awareness about the role of Ukrainian NGOs. The grantee conducted nine meetings of the Parliament Club. A total of 397 representatives, 21 MPs, and 50 journalists participated. The grantee broadcasted four TV films and two short clips about the Parliament Club's activities. The grantee also distributed 19 informational bulletins among parliament deputies, NGOs and mass media.

Although the grantee experienced management difficulties during program implementation, the Parliament Club of NGOs continued beyond the conclusion of the project. Participants of the club have also expressed an interest to continue coordinating with legislators.

Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting

K05-0094

\$17,630

Kyiv, Ukraine

5/1/2005 - 5/31/2005

The government that came to power under the tide of the Orange Revolution faced high expectations from an active and engaged citizenry. Although the new government declared that it would interact with society based on openness and transparency, mechanisms for this interaction were poorly defined and poorly used. To provide a new forum for citizen interaction and engagement with the government, seven well-known Ukrainian think tanks formed a Consortium to analyze the first 100 days of the new government and suggest various policy recommendations. The findings were presented at a high level round table attended by 131 people, including then Vice Prime Minister. 2000 copies of the analytical report were also distributed among government officials, independent experts, and the mass media. The project was a successful way of providing independent analysis of the government's activities.

Eventually, the government incorporated several of the consortium's recommendations into its policies. Specific recommendations used by the government include those in the areas of re-privatization, trade policy, and budget policy.

NGO "Our Children"

K03-0189

\$21,915

Odessa, Ukraine

4/1/2004 - 4/30/2005

During Soviet times, the government often acted with little input or interest from the citizenry. In many places in Ukraine, this legacy continues to influence modern local governance. Local governments particularly alienate youth from the governing and decision-making process.

The grantee addressed this issue by developing a new forum for youth to participate in local decision-making in Odesa city. This so-called "Youth Council" became an effective organization to represent youth interests. The grantee conducted an information campaign to encourage citizens' involvement into the decision-making processes, producing 13 TV programs, 4 press conferences, 5 public service announcements, and 22 articles in the press. The grantee conducted 20 trainings on lobbying the interests of Odesa's youth during the city's planning and budget process for 400 participants of local NGOs, student associations, Youth Council members, and other stakeholders. The grantee also published a manual titled Practical Tools for Public Participation in Local-Level Decision Making and distributed it among national and local NGOs, representatives of self-government bodies, and journalists.

As a result of the project, the "Young Community" city program was drafted by the Youth Council and was well received by the Ukrainian Ministry of Youth and Family. The initiative became the first city program prepared by advocacy groups, was partly adopted by the City Council and was funded in the FY 2005 Odesa City budget. The class on local self-governance was also introduced into the curriculum of public schools in Odesa city. In the future, the grantee will continue developing public participation tools, in response to a request from the City Department of Internal Policy.

Regional Tourist Information Center

K04-0175

\$20,864

Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

7/12/2004 - 10/31/2005

Most of the almost 5,500 museums in Ukraine continue to rely on government subsidies for survival. As state funds dwindle, museum directors lack the skills or information needed to attract private sources of funding.

To address this problem, the grantee helped 10 pilot museums in the Carpathian region to improve service quality, PR, marketing, and methods of working in partnership with tourist agencies and craftsmen. The project organized a series of trainings for 133 museum and tourism professionals and conducted five press-tours for 52 participants to the pilot museums.

As a result, 14 new partnerships between museums and tourist agencies were established. The grantee also developed, published and distributed a manual on Museum Management. As a result of the project, the participating museums increased their income from non-government sources by 30% and increased their number of visitors by 40%.

Center for Political and Legal Reforms

K05-0002

\$31,840

Kyiv, Ukraine

3/1/2005 - 12/31/2005

Administrative reforms were declared to be a priority for the Cabinet of Ministers after the 2004 Orange Revolution and remain a key objective for the Ukrainian government. Public administration reform is a tremendous undertaking in Ukraine. The current system at best is inefficient and at worst leads to outright corruption. Insulated government officials make decisions without considering effects on citizenry, and jurisdictions are often fuzzy and overlapping.

The grantee responded to this pressing need by providing expert input into key policy documents. The grantee prepared a draft Concept of Public Administration Reform and accompanying draft laws "On the Cabinet of Ministers," "On the Ministries and Other Central Executive Authorities" and "On the State Civil Service." The Concept, which received positive evaluations from renowned Ukrainian, Polish, Slovak, German, and Danish experts, laid out strategies for transparent and decentralized political and administrative functions. Three round tables and conferences in Kyiv, Lviv and Kharkiv allowed over 300 representatives of local and national governments, academia, and civil society to comment on draft documents. The draft Concept was accepted by the Vice Prime Minister, sent to ministries and administrations for discussion and feedback, and was presented at Parliament hearings on decentralizing power and local self-governance. The grantee also published and distributed a guidebook on Public Administration Reform in Ukraine.

While the project was well-received, the government's reform efforts have stalled as a result of political changes and concerns. However, there are many positive developments. As a result of this and other efforts to promote administrative reform, the director of the grantee organization was appointed to a top executive position in the Presidential Secretariat responsible for administrative and legal reforms. Many top parties made administrative reform a top priority in the March 2006 parliamentary elections. Finally, the grantee will continue lobbying for reforms in the administrative sector. The project was co-funded by the USAID Democratic Parliamentary Strengthening Program, implemented by the Indiana University Parliamentary Development Project.

Civil Society Institute

K05-0143

\$4,993

Kyiv, Ukraine

7/6/2005 - 10/24/2005

The current system of territorial administration in Ukraine is a confusing mix of oblasts, districts, towns, an autonomous republic, and other opaque territorial units. Those who suffer the most from such a confusing delineation are residents of rural communities. Their community structures are so small that there is no critical mass for efficient use of limited state resources. Rural governments tend to have limited statutory authority, miniscule local budgets, and limited jurisdiction over state assets such as land and municipal property.

The general population is not aware of the benefits of an overhaul of Ukraine's system of territorial administration. The grantee addressed this issue by publishing a booklet called "Something Interesting from an Interested Person, or How Farmer Pan'ko Understands Territorial Reform," also available on the Web. The booklet is an easy-to-understand guide for the public, describing the need for territorial reforms and the potential benefits in plain terms and with humor. Four thousand copies of the booklet were disseminated widely among the Center for Ukrainian Reforms Education's network of regional press clubs, Committee of Voters public reception rooms in the regions, and other public events carried out by the grantee.

The booklet received praise from its target audience and outside experts on its readability and accessibility. EF plans to reprint more copies of the book under the Vox Populi Initiative for assisting NGOs interested in public awareness on administrative issues.

Kindness Charitable Foundation

K03-0117

\$48,806

Donetsk, Ukraine

1/1/2004 - 10/19/2005

According to the findings of the Counterpart Creative Center's research on Corporate Philanthropy (2005), the overwhelming majority of Ukrainian businesses (82%) practice charity. Twenty-two percent of medium- and large-sized companies regularly donate to private charities. These charities, however, lack strategic management and governance required to ensure sustainability.

The Dobrota (Kindness) Foundation in Donetsk has long been considered to be a leader in promoting corporate philanthropy in Ukraine. However, the foundation depended on the energy and willpower of its leadership and on personal relations with external donors for survival. An institutional development

grant allowed the grantee to establish and train a functional and influential advisory board. Written management procedures - including human resource and volunteer policies - were drafted and implemented under the grant. The grantee also trained its staff and volunteers on the various aspects of NGO management, and conducted an extensive informational campaign. Finally, the organization developed a stakeholder-driven multi-year strategic plan

The advisory board and newly established policies created transparent mechanisms for organizational management and public oversight. The grant increased Dobrota's fundraising capacity, with more than \$350,000 raised from local sources over the eighteen months of project duration. In recognition of its achievements, the foundation received the Fundraising Achievement Award for Eastern and Central Europe at the 10th International Fundraisers Congress in 2005. In addition, the grantee has actively shared its experiences with peer organizations in other regions of Ukraine.

Mushroom Farming Support Center

K04-0195

\$13,458

Chernigiv, Ukraine

10/1/2004 - 9/30/2005

People in Ukraine's more remote regions need to find innovative ways to diversify their local economies. Mushroom farming as an agricultural businesses can contribute to the rural economy if the production cycle is properly organized and if reliable distribution networks are set up. To make this possible in Chernihiv Oblast, the project trained 110 clients, provided 158 individual consultations and organized seven study trips to leading mushroom farms for 50 beneficiaries. The grantee also produced informational materials, including a guidebook for new mushroom farmers. At the end of the project, two new mushroom farming businesses had begun operating and 15 new jobs were created. The project beneficiaries saw a 280% increase in mushroom production, from 20,400 kilograms (44,880 pounds) per year to 68,400 kilograms (150,480 pounds) over the course of the grant period. The grantee also helped form an informal mushroom farmers association with 27 members. The association continues to help small agricultural businesses grow, operating with association membership fees and income from paid services.

Uzbekistan

Aid to Artisans, Inc. (ATA)

T04-1317 \$12,428

Hartford, US 4/1/2005 - 7/31/2005

The expulsion of the Taliban from Afghanistan has made possible renewed trade and cultural ties with neighboring countries. To accelerate this process, the grantee arranged for a group of Afghan potters to travel to Uzbekistan to exchange techniques and jointly host a pottery exhibition with ceramists from Uzbekistan. This followed on an earlier grant which sent the Uzbekistani potters to Afghanistan. Their similar styles and language underscored a common heritage predating modern borders. The exhibit, which resulted in \$1,000 in pottery sales, was shown on Uzbek television, helping dispel negative stereotypes about Afghanistan. Along with graphically showing the potential for trade and exchange, the project also illustrated the barriers, as the Afghans required the intervention of the United Nations to obtain visas. The French NGO, ACTED, covered costs on the Afghan side of the border.

Newspaper Ikbol

T03-0902 \$21,470

Andijan, Uzbekistan 10/1/2003 - 7/25/2005

In the Ferghana Valley, many residents have little or no access to news and information from neighboring countries. To address this problem, newspapers from each of the three neighboring countries created the Neighbors newspaper insert, where information about important issues is printed in Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek, and Russian. The grantee partners each published 22 issues of the insert, 12,000 copies of which were distributed in Uzbekistan, 3,000 in Tajikistan, and 4,400 in the Kyrgyz Republic. In more than 243 articles, the newspapers touched upon relevant problems such as: border crossings; migration; growth of small businesses; ecological, economic, and transportation problems; distribution of water, electrical and heating resources; and a search for resolutions to one of the most potentially dangerous problems in the region - interethnic conflict. Employees of the three partner newspapers attended two professional journalism trainings with experts from the BBC, with additional support from CIMERA. The three newspapers received a large volume of letters addressed to the editors of the Neighbors insert. These letters reflect the resonance of the cross-border theme with the local population. The partners prepared a recommendation letter to the local governments of border areas, parliamentarians, oblast-level governments, customs and border authorities and security services in which they analyzed reader mail and suggestions, expert opinions and suggestions from the project participants. The publication of the insert serves as an example of real cooperation between mass media and government in the Ferghana Valley.

NGO Tashkent Business Club

T03-0129 \$7,140

Tashkent, Uzbekistan 1/15/2004 - 3/30/2006

Businesses face confiscation of goods, the inability to withdraw their own cash from banks and a range of other private property rights violations. The grantee held roundtables, conducted seminars and published newspaper articles to raise awareness of these problems. Such contributions to the public debate are rare for nongovernmental organizations in Uzbekistan. Midway through the grant, the Uzbek government provided a clear example of the problem this project was addressing when it blocked the transfer of funds from the foundation to the grantee. The government also proved unreceptive to the grantee's suggestions for strengthening private property rights.

Representation of SIFE in the Republic of Uzbekistan

T02-0917 \$21,036

Tashkent, Uzbekistan 9/12/2003 - 2/15/2005

In the Ferghana Valley there is a poorly developed system of teaching young entrepreneurs, which is one of the factors limiting the economic growth of the region. To address this problem, three student business associations in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan created this project, designed to prepare a new generation of businessmen in the region. The grantee partners established 14 new Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) teams among higher education institutions in the region, trained 346

people and provided 17,65 consultations to students on business planning and cross-border trade. The grantees also held 48 meetings between students and businesses, and found work for 109 people. Representatives from the Fergana Valley participated in the 2003 SIFE World Cup in Germany and in the 2004 World Cup in Spain. At the regional competition SIFE-Fergana 2004, participants presented 126 projects, including 78 business projects, 77 educational projects, and 49 social work projects. The grantees conducted an information campaign about the project, including publishing and distributing informational materials, 500 copies of the SIFE Handbook 2003-2004, 1,000 SIFE brochures, 500 SIFE Central Asia yearbooks for 2003-04, and 107 sets of video and photographic materials. The grantee also distributed a number of materials to local and regional media: 30 newspaper articles, 24 television advertisements, and five radio advertisements.

Bukhara Province Association of Entrepreneurs

T04-1033 \$25,078

Bukhara, Uzbekistan 4/1/2004 - 3/9/2006

Leasing is an important business development tool in Uzbekistan, yet at the start of this grant was not used in Bukhara Oblast. The grantee worked with the International Finance Corporation to train four specialists in leasing, who in turn provided training or consultations to more than 400 local businesspeople. It linked leasing companies based in the capital with local businesses. It helped in eight leasing arrangements totaling more than \$2 million during the grant period, resulting in the creation of many new workplaces. Because of outreach efforts during the grant, the grantee expects to triple the number of leasing arrangements in 2006, and thus appears to have introduced a sustainable financial service to businesses.

Center for Legal and Social Supporting "Selen"

T05-0065 \$4

Urgench, Uzbekistan 7/1/2005 - 1/31/2006

During recent years, the Foundation has received a number of requests from NGOs in the Khorezm region to conduct vocational training for unemployed women. Based on this demand, it conducted a competition and awarded four grants, including this one. The grants were intended to help women, mainly stay-at-home mothers, generate income through activities like producing crafts and traditional clothes. The grantee was first barred from receiving its grant payments, and then closed under pressure from the Ministry of Justice.

Fergana Oblast Narcological Clinic

T04-2019 \$7,000

Fergana, Uzbekistan 9/27/2004 - 12/31/2005

Drug treatment by detoxification is the standard approach in Uzbekistan, yet has an extremely high rate of relapse. One way to reduce the relapse rate is through psychological or spiritual work with the patients. As part of the USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program, the grantee conducted outreach among 228 drug users, and convinced 43 to participate in the project, where they received psychological counseling and enrolled in the twelve-step program. It also established a club for co-dependents, which met eight times during the project period. It is too early to measure the recidivism of this group against the baseline for patients undergoing only detoxification, but the grantee was able to integrate the new methods into its standard practice, greatly increase its ability to reach out to drug users with a variety of approaches to recovery, and increase its standing in the community. The center's director died during the project period, causing a delay, and the grantee was unable to successfully complete the project, before the Foundation itself was forced to close its Tashkent office.

NGO "Yangi Khayot"

T04-2012 \$341

Termez, Uzbekistan 9/27/2004 - 12/31/2005

Intravenous drug use in the regions of Uzbekistan bordering Afghanistan has risen in recent years, and along with it HIV/AIDS. New approaches are needed to rehabilitate drug users. The grantee's staff received training under the USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program in modern methods of helping drug users quit. The grantee was then to have conducted a series of activities to help drug users

seek treatment, but was first barred from receiving grant payments and then closed under pressure by the Ministry of Justice before it was able to begin any project activities.

NGO Central Asian- American Partnership in Academics and Development

T04-1230 \$14,963

Tashkent, Uzbekistan 9/20/2004 - 8/31/2005

Uzbekistan allows only foreign organizations to run non-bank microfinance institutions, limiting poor people's access to small loans. To widen access and ensure its own sustainability, the grantee planned to convert its microfinance institution to local registration, and then share its experience for others. The grantee researched the legal basis and procedures for registering, and felt confident that it was legally possible to do so. However, when it attempted to submit its documents, the registering body, the Ministry of Justice, refused to accept them, despite repeated requests.

NGO Fundraising Consulting Center

T04-1175 \$16,638

Tashkent, Uzbekistan 9/27/2004 - 3/31/2006

Schools in Uzbekistan require donations by parents and businesses to conduct repairs, buy teaching materials and hold events, yet lack of transparency in how the money is spent denies parents of a fundamental right, undermines community trust and discourages voluntary contributions. The grantee therefore attempted to introduce a model for increasing community involvement and establishing oversight boards in schools. This model, incidentally, fit well with a plan by the Ministry of Education to increase community involvement in schools. The grantee visited Eurasia grantees with relevant experience in Kazakhstan and Russia, and selected 13 schools from among applicants in and near Tashkent to introduce the model. The grantee presented the idea of setting up public support centers attached to the schools. Parents and administrators at the schools greeted the idea with enthusiasm. The grantee helped prepare the documents to register nine such centers. Four were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for registration, but were rejected. The Ministry of Justice refused to accept submission of the other five. Based on the positive reception by parents, schools and the Ministry of Education, and similar experience in Russia and Kazakhstan, this project model could make a strong contribution to social capital formation in countries tolerant of this form of community involvement.

NGO School of Young Telejournalists

T01-0332 \$23,372

Tashkent, Uzbekistan 5/1/2002 - 10/31/2003

Uzbekistani journalism students face many challenges to receiving a quality education, among them a lack of resources. The grantee wrote and published 2,600 copies of an Uzbek and Russian dictionary of modern journalism terminology, to replace the one from the 1950s that had been in use. It also produced three video teaching guides on journalism basics, broadcast journalism ethics and reporting in extreme situations. The materials were given to journalists and university journalism departments and incorporated into classroom instruction. Based on positive feedback, the foundation planned to develop additional educational materials for journalism students. The foundation did publish a collection of exemplary Uzbek journalism in 2005, but plans to distribute this and support additional materials were canceled due to government pressure.

Nukus Regional Association of Business Professors

T02-0007 \$5,218

Nukus, Republic Karakalpakstan 7/1/2002 - 12/31/2002

Interactive methods of teaching can improve the quality of higher education. In order to strengthen the capacity of educational institutions, up to 200 business professors were to receive trainings in effective teaching methods. The grantee was also to develop and translate into the Karakalpak language a new teaching manual on business disciplines to be used in pilot lessons. However, due to poor management, only 40 professors were trained, and the manual was not designed.

Samarkand Branch of the Association of Sociologists and Psychologists

T04-1198 \$17,550

Samarkand, Uzbekistan 9/20/2004 - 10/1/2005

Recent college graduates are often unable to find work that fits their education. The grantee signed agreements with six universities to assist their graduates. It then set up a career center where it trained more than 500 young people in finding work, linked state and corporate employment offices with universities, and held five job fairs. The grantee directly helped 30 young people find jobs and 70 find internships. Based on this experience, it was invited to conduct similar activities in Navoi, but before the grant was closed, the organization itself was forced to close by the Ministry of Justice.

Support Center for Disabled People "Khayot"

T04-1226

\$8,147

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

9/28/2004 - 9/27/2006

The organization was identified as a potential institutional development grant recipient due to an earlier project in which it created several jobs for disabled people, its constituency. The grant was to both strengthen its institutional capacity and equip it with sewing machines to provide employment for disabled people. The grantee struggled with the first part. For example, a second donor was to assist in renovating its office space, but after that donor was forced out of the country, the grantee neither informed the Eurasia Foundation that it was without an office - keeping the grant equipment at the director's home - nor took steps to resolve the situation itself. With the sewing machines, it received at least one contract for disabled people to make clothing, and is expecting more orders. The organization's charismatic leadership has given it a leading role among disabled people's organizations in Uzbekistan and earned it a strong reputation in the broader region. However, the Foundation found the organization had difficulty managing the grant and did not appear serious about trying to achieve the grant's goal of increasing its organizational capacity. When the Foundation's Tashkent office was forced to liquidate, it decided to close this grant after just \$8,000 of a budgeted \$73,000 had been spent, rather than monitor from abroad a grant that had proven so difficult to manage. As Foundation staff was closing the grant, the grantee indicated that it was under pressure from the Ministry of Justice, and may be closed.

Surkhandarya Branch of Uzbek Association on Reproduction Health

T04-2008

Termez, Uzbekistan

9/27/2004 - 12/31/2005

Rural-to-urban migrants are a high-risk group for using drugs. Under the USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program, the grantee was to have helped this type of migrants better integrate into their new home through legal and practical advice and cooperation with local authorities, and to raise their awareness about the risks of drug use. However, from September 2004 through January 2006, the organization was first blocked from receiving grant payments, and then when it attempted to open a new bank account, found that not a single bank in Termez would allow it to do so. One month after the grantee was able to open an account, the Foundation itself was forced to close its Tashkent office, and thus decided to cancel this grant.

Tashkent Center for the Harmonization and Recovery of Society, "For Worthy Life"

T04-2006

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

9/24/2004 - 3/24/2005

Drug rehabilitation methods practiced in Uzbekistan could be improved by introducing alternative therapies that involve the drug user in the cure. Under the USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program, the grantee was to have treated a group of drug users through yoga. However, after the Uzbek government blocked its grant payments, the grantee asked that the grant be closed.

The William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan Business School

T04-1119

\$101,291

Ann Arbor, USA

6/10/2004 - 12/10/2005

An earlier grant and evaluation showed that Uzbekistan's sole private business school, Kelajak Ilmi, was in need of strengthened management. As part of an ongoing partnership, the grantee installed a managing director at the school. The managing director reinvigorated ties with the business community, and helped establish an external oversight board. The director also generally contributed to the school's management, and helped prepare a subsequent partnership grant that includes faculty exchanges and the introduction of a mini-MBA program.

Women Center Ihlos

T05-0067

Khorezm Oblast, Uzbekistan

7/1/2005 - 1/31/2006

During recent years, the Foundation has received a number of requests from NGOs in the Khorezm region to conduct vocational training for unemployed women. Based on this demand, it conducted a competition and awarded four grants, including this one. The grants were intended to help women, mainly stay-at-home mothers, generate income through activities like producing crafts and traditional clothes. After it received the grant but before it was able to conduct any project activities, the Ministry of Justice forcibly closed the organization.

Women's Club "Sodrujestvo"

T04-2000

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

\$4,936

9/28/2004 - 8/30/2005

Tashkent Oblast is experiencing a rise in drug use, fueled by an increase in drug trafficking and a stagnant economy. An important prevention measure is ensuring that parents and children can talk openly about drugs, so the grantee, under the Family-to-Family component of the USAID sponsored Drug Demand Reduction Program, worked on a pilot project to improve intrafamily communication. It worked with eight families in the city of Yangiyul, providing them with the advice of a psychologist and training in improved communications.

Washington, DC

Central Connecticut State University

W01-0062

\$290,375

Connecticut, USA

10/1/2001 - 3/31/2004

In an effort to promote long-term economic liberalization and engagement of Belarus with the outside world in the face of the restrictive nature of the government, Central Connecticut State University, together with Institute of Privatization and Management, and the Leon Kozminski Academy of Entrepreneurship and Management launched the first executive MBA program in the country. Over the course of this grant, these partners developed the human, technical and administrative infrastructure necessary to create a program that has become self-sustaining.

The New Eurasia Foundation

W04-0024

\$73,874

Moscow, Russia

1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005

Social investment is still a nascent field in Russia. While Russian companies and individuals are becoming both increasingly sophisticated and strategic in their contribution to society, they still lack a clear understanding of various aspects and the potential for social investing in Russia. With the Social Investment Initiative, the Eurasia Foundation aimed to help specific companies define their philanthropic goals and develop strategies. This was achieved with great success by training mid- and upper-level Russian managers to develop their skills and expertise in these areas, thus producing new programs and opportunities for joint action. This program also allowed these managers to network on a regular basis, enabling them to develop strong ties that will last beyond the life of this program.

Appendix C

U.S. Government Grants by Country and Strategic Objective October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Armenia

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Armenian Marketing Association Non-Governmental Organization

\$1,245

Armenia

To develop the capacity of local businesses in the South Caucasus to export goods and services. Within the framework of the contact project, the partners will develop a linkage project proposal that will focus on producing print and electronic versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog. The Catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The same information will be made available through an updatable website. Successful implementation of the contact project will result in the elaboration of a carefully developed and competitive linkage proposal.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

International Center for Human Development (ICHD) NGO

\$63,582

Armenia

The goal of the project is to promote cross-border cooperation and dialogue through implementation of Armenian-Turkish Track to Diplomacy (T2D) projects. The project will conduct (1) an analysis of Armenian-Turkish T2D projects conducted since 2001 and the development of a handbook on best practices in T2D projects; (2) an evaluation of MANEC I [a project for the creation of a web site that links farmers in eastern Turkey and western Armenia regions]; and (3) a feasibility study for MANEC II. The results of the feasibility study will lay the ground for the decision on whether to support the implementation of MANEC II at a later date. The project will result in an improved understanding among stakeholders of the factors that contribute to the success or lack of success among T2D projects, of the achievements of MANEC I, and of the potential for MANEC II to succeed.

Greens Union of Armenia

\$940

Armenia

To strengthen the national capacities of the South Caucasus countries to manage shared water resources in an integrated manner and protect them from environmental pollution. Within the framework of the contact project, the three partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will develop a linkage project that will focus on improving water resource management in the Kura Araks basin. The larger linkage project will promote public participation in the integrated water resource management process. Successful implementation of the contact project will result in the elaboration of a carefully developed and competitive linkage project proposal.

ACHILLES Society for Defense of Drivers' Rights

\$9,355

Armenia (Yerevan City)

To strengthen public mechanisms for monitoring the work of Armenia's traffic police. A hot-line will be organized to provide legal consultation and support to drivers. A database of received calls will be developed. The NGO will also organize a round table at the end of the project to analyze all data collected. Recommendations on necessary legislative changes will be developed based on these results. The project will lead to an increased awareness among drivers, thereby reducing corruption risks in this sphere.

Armenian International Policy Research Group

\$42,150

Armenia (Yerevan City)

To enhance understanding of the economic consequences of opening the Armenian-Turkish borders as an important contribution to the debate and considerations of policymakers on this issue. The project proposes development of policy recommendations on the economic impact of Armenia-Turkey border opening through evaluation of the distributional impacts of the border opening and the impact on the social life of Armenia and Turkey. The project outcomes will be presented during the international conference held in Armenia and will be placed on the Internet.

2.2 Improved Legal Systems

Union of Armenian Ecologists

\$39,120

Armenia

To support efficient management of transboundary water resources and increase environmental safety across the South Caucasus region. The partners will conduct an analysis of existing national standards regulating the protection and rational use of transboundary water resources and compare those standards with those of the United States and European countries. Their analysis will include a detailed outline of the benefits of applying international water standards to the concrete case of the Kura-Araks river basin. The partners will also conduct a public awareness campaign to stimulate public cooperation and joint efforts to protect and rationally utilize transboundary water resources. Elements of the public awareness campaign include national and regional conferences, informational brochures, participation in television talk shows, and the creation of a website. As a result of the project, prioritized recommendations for reforming national water standards will be developed and presented to the appropriate governmental bodies for their consideration.

Azerbaijan

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Azerbaijan Project Management Association

\$33,320

Azerbaijan

To introduce international quality management standards to local businesses and certify personnel of local businesses and organizations as specialists of quality management in Azerbaijan. In partnership with the grantee organization, the representatives of the Ukrainian Association of Quality, a member of the European Organization of Quality, will provide training for 20 participants on the process of quality management and will select the most successful trainees among them to provide further training opportunities (TOT). Upon completion of the TOT, five local trainers will conduct trainings on the process of quality management for more than 50 local business people. The project will issue educational-methodological publications about quality management to training and seminar participants. Two seminars will be held in order to clarify issues surrounding the introduction of a modern system of quality management into Azerbaijan.

Marketing Specialists of Azerbaijan

\$1,594

Azerbaijan

To support economic development in the South Caucasus through building the capacity of local businesses to export goods and services. Within the framework of the contact project, the partners will develop a linkage proposal that will focus on producing print and electronic versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog that will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The same information will be made available through an updatable web site of the project. The successful implementation of the contact project will result in elaboration of a competitive linkage proposal that will make it possible to address the above objectives in the most effective and efficient manner.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

ECOS - Environmental Sustainability

\$974

Azerbaijan

To strengthen the national capacities of the South Caucasus countries to manage shared water resources in an integrated manner and protect them from environmental pollution. Within the framework of the contact project, the three partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will develop a linkage project that will focus on improving water resource management in the Kura Araks basin. The larger linkage project will promote public participation in the integrated water resource management process. Successful implementation of the contact project will result in the elaboration of a carefully developed and competitive linkage project proposal.

2.2 Improved Legal Systems

"Ruzgar" Ecological Society of Azerbaijan Republic

\$34,677

Azerbaijan

To support efficient management of transboundary water resources and increase environmental safety across the South Caucasus region. The partners will conduct an analysis of existing national standards regulating the protection and rational use of transboundary water resources and compare those

standards with those of the United States and European countries. Their analysis will include a detailed outline of the benefits of applying international water standards to the concrete case of the Kura-Araks river basin. The partners will also conduct a public awareness campaign to stimulate public cooperation and joint efforts to protect and rationally utilize transboundary water resources. Elements of the public awareness campaign include national and regional conferences, informational brochures, participation in television talk shows, and the creation of a website. As a result of the project, prioritized recommendations for reforming national water standards will be developed and presented to the appropriate governmental bodies for their consideration.

"Ecolex" Center for Ecological Law

\$16,177

Azerbaijan

To support the development of public policy and advocacy skills by formalizing mechanisms for public participation in the decision-making processes of governmental institutions. After conducting an analysis of the current environment for public participation in decision-making processes related to economic, social and environmental issues, the grantee organization will form a focus group with representatives from local NGOs, mass media, related ministries, the national Parliament and international organizations. This group will develop and promote procedures and legislation on the mentioned issues. The practical publication, "Public participation is a new tool of democratization of the society and public administration in Azerbaijan," will be developed in Azerbaijani and Russian languages. The project will also organize a conference and present draft legislation at relevant Parliamentary commissions. As a part of the project's policy advocacy activity, participants will cooperate with bodies to adopt new legislation to regulate public participation in discussions of economic, social and environmental-related issues.

Belarus

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Society for Mutual Lending "Stolny"

\$32,453

Belarus

To promote credit unions in Belarus. The grantee will train credit union officials and provide consulting to potential clients. The grantee will also conduct a media campaign and develop information materials. Finally, the project will provide draft amendments to current legislation based on detailed legal analysis. This project will help provide access to capital for small businesses and increase the purchasing capacity of citizens.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

ISAR, Inc. Affiliate Office in Belarus

\$49,995

Belarus

To encourage public participation in local environmental issues. The project will support no less than eight community initiatives through a small grants program. The grantee will supplement the grants program with trainings and networking events. The project will strengthen Belarusian NGOs' ability to oversee and participate in local government decision-making.

Georgia

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

International Center for Trade Policy and Law

\$985

Georgia

To develop the capacity of local businesses in the South Caucasus to export goods and services. Within the framework of the contact project, the partners will develop a linkage project proposal that will focus on producing print and electronic versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog. The Catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The same information will be made available through an updatable website. Successful implementation of the contact project will result in the elaboration of a carefully developed and competitive linkage project proposal.

Centre for Training and Consultancy

\$36,043

Georgia (Tbilisi City)

The goal of the project is to promote the small businesses in Georgia by developing standards for the hospitality industry in Georgia, especially among employees of guesthouses and small hotels. The grantee will conduct a series of trainings in various aspects of small hotel operation in Batumi/Kobuleti, Borjomi, and Kakheti - three areas of Georgia with high numbers of tourists. The materials developed through the trainings will be collated and published as a guesthouse handbook, 2,000 copies of which will be distributed throughout the country to hotel personnel. In addition, a documentary film covering best practices as well as challenges for the small hotel sector will be developed and broadcast by regional television companies. By addressing the lack of professional knowledge of the service industry among hotel managers and general staff, the program will contribute to an improvement in the quality of Georgia's small hotels and guesthouses, contributing to Georgia's tourism industry development as a whole.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Green Movement of Georgia

\$1,085

Georgia

To strengthen the national capacities of the South Caucasus countries to manage shared water resources in an integrated manner and protect them from environmental pollution. Within the framework of the contact project, the three partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will develop a linkage project that will focus on improving water resource management in the Kura Araks basin. The larger linkage project will promote public participation in the integrated water resource management process. Successful implementation of the contact project will result in the elaboration of a carefully developed and competitive linkage project proposal.

Center for Civil Integration and Inter-ethnic Relations (CCIIR)

\$39,888

Georgia (Tbilisi City)

To promote Georgian language education in the Azeri-populated region of Kvemo-Kartli in order to develop a foundation for Azeri integration into Georgian society at large. The project will introduce modern methods of Georgian language teaching to 32 teachers at Kvemo-Kartli secondary schools, who will then provide further training to 420 additional teachers in the region. The project also envisages the development of a new GSL Communicative Grammar teaching textbook and exercise book for students, as well as a dictionary and vocabulary training book for teachers. The dictionary

will be published in both electronic and hard copy, and additional guides on the teaching of Georgian vocabulary and grammar developed for trainers will also be published.

Akhali Shvidi Dge Newspaper

\$35,457

Georgia (Tbilisi City)

The goal of the grant is to support the independence of Georgian media and to strengthen its role as a civic watchdog. The weekly newspaper "Akhali 7 Dge" will investigate 12 core components of the Tbilisi municipality budget between 2001-2005, including the entire process from drafting of the budget to approval. The grantee will consider how priorities were defined, look at legal and illegal lobbying on the part of interest groups, and investigate reasons behind changes in Tbilisi's budget priorities after the 2003 Rose Revolution. The findings of the journalistic investigation will be published in the newspaper and disseminated among stakeholders, media, the NGO community and journalism schools. This will mobilize public opinion towards more proactive civic oversight of the capital budget and will increase Tbilisi-government awareness of the need for more transparency and accountability. The project will support the development of sustainable investigative journalism in Georgia by disseminating best practices and case studies based on the findings of the journalistic investigation.

Mega TV

\$30,088

Georgia (Imereti)

To enhance the role of Georgian regional media in youth civic integration as well as in improving links between the media, NGOs, society and government. The 12-month project, run by television station MEGA-TV, will broadcast a talk show "Forum" twice a month and will organize a series called "Our Time", made up of 50 shows in total, which will discuss dire problems in the region and in the country at large. The project will also conduct two televised public meetings and 24 independent expert-led seminars in order to educate journalists, NGOs and youth groups about legal, economic, and civil society issues. The television company will bring students from Kutaisi State University to volunteer in the production of the shows and as possible anchors for televised debates. Local NGOs and youth groups will have an opportunity to gain publicity and to improve their partnerships with media, local government, and the general public. The project is also designed to support the sustainability and independence of MEGA-TV by enhancing its infrastructure and broadcasting coverage area, allowing the television company to diversify its programming, to enhance the professionalism of its staff, and to increase its audience share and market revenues.

2.2 Improved Legal Systems

Georgian Association of Ecological and Biological Monitoring

\$33,080

Georgia

To support efficient management of transboundary water resources and increase environmental safety across the South Caucasus region. The partners will conduct an analysis of existing national standards regulating the protection and rational use of transboundary water resources and compare those standards with those of the United States and European countries. Their analysis will include a detailed outline of the benefits of applying international water standards to the concrete case of the Kura-Araks river basin. The partners will also conduct a public awareness campaign to stimulate public cooperation and joint efforts to protect and rationally utilize transboundary water resources. Elements of the public awareness campaign include national and regional conferences, informational brochures, participation in television talk shows, and the creation of a website. As a result of the project, prioritized recommendations for reforming national water standards will be developed and presented to the appropriate governmental bodies for their consideration.

Kazakhstan

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Jambyl Oblast Public Association "Center of Justice"

\$12,717

Kazakhstan (Jambyl Oblast)

To increase transparency of Kazakhstan regional government budgets by promoting civic engagement in budget monitoring on all levels. The grantee will establish a center to train representatives of non-governmental organizations and mass media from 10 Kazakhstan cities in applied budget analysis as a tool to provide sound advice in the budget monitoring process.

Public Association - Regional Center of New Information Technologies

\$6,900

Kazakhstan (North Kazakhstan)

To develop mechanisms to encourage public participation in the budget process, the grantee will initiate an information campaign to attract mass media, non-governmental organizations and government bodies to transparency in the budget process. The campaign includes the development of a Web page called 'Our Budget' and the creation of a citizen-based board in Petropavlovsk to promote civic engagement and facilitate discussion and draft recommendations on budget issues.

Fund for Assistance and Development TAN

\$13,500

Kazakhstan (Atyrau Oblast)

To promote open budgets and increase civic engagement in the monitoring of ecological programs, the grantee will train regional experts in applied budget analysis. The grantee will monitor and make recommendations on government budgets for ecological programs in Atyrau oblast.

Institute of State and Local Administration

\$6,132

Kazakhstan (Almaty City)

To ensure transparency in the budget process regarding rehabilitation programs for unemployed residents of the Enbekshikazakh district. The grantee will bring together local governments, civic organizations and active community members of the region to conduct open hearings and engage in budget program development.

Public Association - Regional Center of New Information Technologies

\$6,900

Kazakhstan (North Kazakhstan)

To develop mechanisms to encourage public participation in the budget process, the grantee will initiate an information campaign to attract mass media, non-governmental organizations and government bodies to transparency in the budget process. The campaign includes the development of a Web page called 'Our Budget' and the creation of a citizen-based board in Petropavlovsk to promote civic engagement and facilitate discussion and draft recommendations on budget issues.

Kyrgyzstan

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Danko Public Fund for Support of Youth and Women

\$2,543

Kyrgyzstan (Issyk-Kul Oblast)

To support the crafts industry in the city of Balykchy. The grantee will provide training to up to 15 artisans to increase the quality and diversity of their work as well as their competitiveness. The project participants will improve their knowledge of marketing, business planning and financial management, and they will learn new design and production techniques. The project is financed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).

Moldova

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Center for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption

\$11,039

Moldova

To test a new method of providing independent analysis on potential corruption-related issues in draft laws and regulations. The grantee will sign a cooperative agreement with the Moldovan Parliament's legal department, select and train 14 anti-corruption experts who will perform the legislative review, and set up a monitoring and evaluation unit to review the experts' reports. The three-month project will prepare the grantee for a major three- year project to reduce corruption in Moldova, to be funded by the Council of Europe.

Russia

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Economics Education and Research Consortium, Inc./EERC

\$787,000

Russia

To institutionalize the research methodology and culture inherent in the EERC-Russia/CIS network model by creating partnerships with selected institutions (research centers, universities) and generating a plan to provide them with capacity-building technical assistance over the next several years. This one-year grant will also assist in the transfer of EERC-Russia/CIS from EERC, Inc. to an institutional home in Russia, strengthen the network's financial and administrative systems and launch its transformation into a 'think-net.'

Resource Center of Community Schools

\$29,855

Russia (Omsk Oblast, Saratov Oblast)

To expand the community school (CS) model by deepening its conceptual and methodological base. During the project's realization a packet of instructional methodological material will be developed that will serve as the foundation for training representatives from educational institutions. These representatives will apply the knowledge gained from the training to carry out socially meaningful projects in their local communities, designed to find concrete solutions to problems in the territories. As a result of the program, a packet of instructional methodological material for CS activity will be created; 36 project participants will increase the general level of knowledge and skills with regard to social technologies that are used in the work of CSs and will broaden the experience of socially beneficial actions in 12 local communities; and no less than 3,500 people will take part personally in the actions, events and realization of the socially significant projects.

Sochi NGO Edelweiss

\$15,000

Russia (Krasnodar Krai)

To develop the community school (CS) movement in southern Russia (Krasnodar and Stavropol Regions) through the use of resources from the CS Center in the city of Sochi and partner non-commercial organizations (NCOs) throughout Russia. The project will allow for the creation of a system of CS information-methodology centers in the south of Russia thanks to the extant program for the preparation of skilled personnel, the creation of a unified information field, and the inter-regional cooperation in the sphere of CS. As a result of the project, the information-methodological base of CS models will be expanded, a system of network coordination of CSs in the south of Russia will be drawn up, and educational programs for educational specialists, teachers, and parents will be carried out.

Local Level Collaboration Center/ Krasnoyarsk Regional Community Organization

\$10,000

Russia (Krasnoyarsk Krai)

To create and support a unified Internet portal for the community schools (CS) movement in Russia. The site will contribute to the development of a coordinated system of Russian NGOs working to develop socially oriented education and CSs, with the goal of uniting efforts, coordinating joint activities, exchanging experiences, and expanding the distribution of information about the CS movement and the opportunities to participate in it.

Akuna Matata, Youth Public Organization

\$20,000

Russia (Agino-Buryat Autonomous Oblast, Buryat Republic, Chita Oblast, Irkutsk O)

To create conditions for the integrated coordination of schools working according to the community school (CS) model and the introduction and stable development of the CS model in the Baikal Region. Project activities will include a relay race of good deeds and a health march. Both activities are expected to attract a large number of students, teachers, parents, and members of the community. By forming an expert council on CS technologies, carrying out an Internet-based exhibit of social technologies, and creating an association of CS schools in the Baikal Region, the professional level of school specialists will be raised, the efficacy of CS technologies will be increased, and the integrated coordination of schools within the Baikal Region will be achieved.

Samara Youth Union

\$30,000

Russia (Orenburg Oblast, Penza Oblast, Samara Oblast, Tatarstan Republic, Ulyanovs)

The realization of this project will allow for the creation of conditions for the popularization of community schools (CS) values, the clarification of CS ideologies, and the long-term dissemination of CS model; for the creation of an organization of local expert potential; and for the unification of efforts directed at the systematic and integrated development of the movement in the Privolzhsk Federal District. During the project's realization, a number of educational seminars will be conducted, a remote consulting service will be organized in order to answer questions related to CS models, and a brochure will be published in which the results of the previous years' work on CS programs in the five regions of the Privolzhsk Federal District will be described.

Chernogorsk School #4 Charitable Foundation, Vozrozhdenye

\$15,000

Russia (Khakass Republic)

To develop a cooperative network of community schools (CS) in the Republic of Khakasia. During the program, a consultation-methodology center will be created; seminars, training sessions, and on-the-job training will be conducted for specialists in CS; a magazine entitled CS Bulletin will be published; and a library, Everything about CS, will be created. As a result of the program, CS specialists will be able to address problems cooperatively across the Republic, and a foundation will be laid for the long-term development of inter-regional cooperation in the Republic of Khakasia and the Krasnoyarsk Region.

Asia-Pacific School

\$13,610

Russia (Primorsky Krai)

The project is aimed to introduce and disseminate community school (CS) model in Primorsky Krai for effective solution of schools' and local community problems. During the project's realization seminar-training for school administrations' representatives will be held, training sessions for teachers, pupils and parents will be conducted. As a result the project target audience will increase knowledge about CS, CS model will be implemented and disseminated in 10 pilot schools of Primorsky Krai. Schools - project participants will be networked as a basis of interregional network of CS in Russia.

Voronezh Regional Public Children's Organization "Iskra"

\$10,000

Russia (Voronezh Oblast)

To promote social partnership between the school and the local community and develop an effective fundraising mechanism for the school to solve local problems. The project will launch a program for voluntary school teams, "Youth Changes the World," which involves adolescents in identification and solution of social problems of the local community. Twenty schools from 10 districts of the region selected on a competitive basis will participate in the project. To ensure successful implementation of the project, 10 coordinators from among representatives of public and state organizations of the region's districts who are experienced in organizational and pedagogic activities will be trained at a seminar. The project will enable schools of the Voronezh oblast to improve their development quality and establish new democratic relations with local communities.

Community of Handicapped Since Birth, Vozrozhdeniye
\$10,834.00

Russia (Altai Krai, Altai Republic, Kemerovo Oblast)

The project is aimed at youth activation by means of uniting the efforts of schools and the surrounding community members for the inclusion of children with handicaps in the educational process, which is an important condition of the democratization of schools in the three regions of the Siberian Federal District. During the course of the project's realization, a number of measures will be enacted, including: educational seminars for representatives of nine schools as well as the handicapped will be conducted; social micro-projects will be developed with the aid of school-participants; the release of methodological educational materials; and carrying out a final interregional meeting. During the course of the project's fulfillment, a partnership will emerge on both the regional and interregional levels. Additionally, the program aims to develop and to expand the Community Schools (CS) movement and to increase the professionalism of CS leaders with regard to working toward solving problems involving the young people of three regions of the Siberian Federal District. In turn, the young people should receive a real opportunity to obtain practical experience participating in the solving the problems of the local community.

Educational Center, Invite
\$10,000

Russia (Arkhangelsk Oblast)

To create conditions for the development of cooperative relationships between individual citizens, schools, business representatives, and public and private organizations in order to solve social problems in the territory of the city of Severodvinsk. As a result of the project, young leaders, teachers, and parents will be prepared to head the development of community schools ably and conditions will be created to facilitate the formation of school foundations and school trustee committees. The activities and results of the project will be widely publicized through local mass media outlets.

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services
\$21,968

Russia (Amur Oblast, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Kamchatka Oblast, Khabarovsk Kra)

To preserve human capital in the Russian Far East (RFE) through cooperation among organizations operating in educational and labor markets. A conference devoted to job placement for young professionals will be organized. This conference will convene educational institutions, prospective employers and career agencies to review the experience of university career centers and to suggest a plan for developing an Information Exchange Network to disseminate best practices and promote partnerships between these stakeholders. The end goal of this project is to enable more young professionals to find work in the RFE labor markets.

Institute for Higher Education Policy
\$35,090

Russia

To expose Russian leaders in the field of education to the American experience with accountability and quality assurance in higher education through a series of workshops and seminars in the United States. This experience will offer the participants lessons learned and different perspectives as they work to develop their own unique systems of accreditation, private ranking, and governmental oversight of higher education institutes.

Tajikistan

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Central Stock Exchange

\$13,913

Tajikistan (Dushanbe City)

To support economic reforms. The grantee will train university students in currency trading, then stage a competition among the universities. As a result, universities and students should increase their interest in the fledgling currency trading industry, which will both widen employment opportunities and increase macroeconomic efficiency.

NGO Bonuvoni Navovar

\$12,030

Tajikistan (Dushanbe City)

To improve the viability of small businesses. Tajikistan has limited business consulting services. The grantee will train staff and purchase office equipment and specialized software for marketing research and business-plan writing, and provide free consultations to start-ups. As a result, a consulting center will be established that could serve as a model or base for expanded business services.

Zonal Society of Deaf and Blind Persons and Orphans

\$7,750

Tajikistan (Khatlon Oblast)

To decrease poverty among disabled people. The grantee obtained a derelict fish farm from the local government. This grant will buy 45,000 fry and fish feed, support a commercial fishing expert, and raise and process the fish. As a result, the NGO's members will gain a sustainable source of nutrition, and income from selling the fish. *This grant is co-funded by the AES Corporation and the Government of Australia*

Economics Education and Research Consortium Inc./EERC

\$12,766.00

Tajikistan (Dushanbe City, Sogd Oblast)

To strengthen the capacity of Tajikistani universities to conduct applied business and economics research. The grantee will organize intensive, high-quality research training activities, issue competitive fellowship grants, promote university-business applied research linkages, and create a network of university-based researchers. This grant is funded by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and is part of the larger Central Asia Applied Research Network project.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Creation of the House of Consent and Friendship

\$13,599

To promote community development in a multi-ethnic community still recovering from the Tajik Civil War. The NGO will create a community center in a building donated by the local administration. There, residents will have access to e-mail to contact relatives who left because of the war or economic hardship, and get free legal consultations. The center will also host a number of cultural events. This should strengthen ties among community members and between civil society and the government.

2.3 More Accountable Local Government

NGO Khamroz

\$18,694

Tajikistan (Khatlon Oblast)

To strengthen local self-governance. Tajikistani legislation gives rural councils a degree of autonomy, and much donor attention has focused on this opportunity. But their urban equivalents, known as makhallas, are still managed centrally. The grantee will set up a coordination council among 40 urban neighborhoods. This council will act as an information and training clearinghouse for makhalla leaders, who will develop plans for local development initiatives. The grantee will then hold a round-table to promote decentralization of makhalla governance.

Ukraine

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Tureurocenter

\$11,431

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To generate new job opportunities and develop rural tourist businesses in the Zakarpatska oblast. With co-funding from the OSCE, the grantee will mark a 30 km scenic trail covering three rural rayons of the oblast. The grantee will also provide trainings on how to be tourist guides. The project will improve existing tourist businesses' profitability and help create new businesses and jobs

Tourist Association of Ivano-Frankivsk Region

\$7,998

Ukraine (Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast)

To promote Ivano-Frankivsk city as a tourist destination through public-private partnerships. In support of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council's Strategic Plan and in partnership with local tourist companies and cultural institutions, the grantee will develop a city GIS system, update a digital map of the city and conduct a broad promotion campaigns. The project will support economic development in Ivano-Frankovsk city by improving the quality of tourist information materials and increasing tourism to the city.

Union to Promote Rural Green Tourism in Ukraine, Ivano-Frankivsk Branch

\$7,998

Ukraine (Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast)

To develop "nostalgic tourism" in Ivano-Frankivsk city through public-private partnerships. In support of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council's Strategic Plan and in partnership with local tourist companies, the grantee will conduct a broad information and promotion campaign. The project will support economic development in Ivano-Frankovsk city by increasing tourism to the city.

Union of Entrepreneurs of Small and Medium Enterprises of Ukraine, Sumy branch

\$10,233

Ukraine (Sumy Oblast)

To introduce innovative agricultural practices to the unemployed in Sumy oblast's rural regions. The grantee will offer a comprehensive training package to out-of-work clients. The package will include formal instruction, internships at successful farms, master classes with recognized experts, and a manual of new agricultural producers. The project will provide new economic opportunities for residents of some of the oblast's depressed regions. The project is co-funded by OSCE under the "Local Economic Development in Rural Areas" initiative.

Zakarpattia Oblast Rural Tourism Development Center

\$9,450

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To generate new job opportunities and support rural tourist business development in the Zakarpatska oblast. With co-funding from the OSCE, the grantee will provide training, internships and individual consultations to unemployed individuals and existing rural tourism providers to help them diversify and market their services. The project will help create jobs, set up new businesses, and improve the profitability of existing tourism providers.

Panonia Society for Social and Cultural Development

\$6,823

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To introduce innovative business practices to craftsmen in rural Zakarpatska Oblast. The grantee will train craftsmen in traditional folk arts and crafts techniques, and assist them in improving and

marketing their products. The project will also produce promotional materials. The project will help create new handicraft businesses in the region and improve their profitability.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Internews - Ukraine

\$49,535

Ukraine

To provide citizens with balanced information during the 2006 parliamentary and local elections campaign through televised candidate debates. The grantee will assist six regional TV stations in designing and producing the debates among political party representatives. There are two anticipated results of this project. First, the public will receive increased information about election issues and parties' platforms. Second, participating regional television stations will produce quality and balanced election-related programming. The project is co-funded by the Internews Network U-Media Project.

Moloda Cherkaschyna Cherkasy Oblast Youth Public Organizations Coalition

\$7,783

Ukraine (Cherkassy Oblast)

To encourage voters in Cherkasy oblast to exercise their civic rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will create a mobile information station to offer consultations to voters in marketplaces. At the mobile station, volunteers will distribute printed materials, gather feedback on electoral campaigns and play audio PSAs, which will also be aired on oblast radio stations. Targeting rural populations, the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice.

Kolomyia Economic Development Association

\$9,202

Ukraine (Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast)

To encourage voters in the Ivano-Frankivsk oblast to exercise their civic rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include printed materials, roaming door-to-door campaigns, and high-profile events, including TV debates among local candidates. Targeting women, youth, and the rural population, the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice. The project is co-funded by the Freedom House Citizen Participation in Elections Project.

Donetsk Agrarian Development Public Organization

\$19,529

Ukraine (Donetsk Oblast)

To introduce new business practices to unemployed people in four rayons of the Donetsk oblast. With co-funding from the OSCE, the grantee will develop and adapt seven innovative new business models for working in rural areas. Using these models, the grantee will train people on how to start a new business, apply for grants and loans, and market their new businesses. Furthermore, the grantee will work with local government officials and state employment centers to use the models in an effort to diversify their local economies. The project will provide new economic opportunities for residents of some of the Donetsk oblast's most depressed regions.

Apelsin Youth Public Organization

\$2,996

Ukraine (Chernigov Oblast)

To encourage voters in Chernihiv oblast to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include printed materials,

open space youth debates, and concerts. Targeting youth, the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice. The project is co-funded by the Freedom House Citizen Participation in Elections Project.

Institute of Social and Cultural Management

\$5,184

Ukraine (Kirovograd Oblast)

To encourage voters in Kirovograd oblast to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will educate journalists, civic activists and voters on analyzing parties' and candidate blocks' campaign platforms. The initiative will include printed materials, trainings, press club meetings, information sessions, and a quiz show. The project is expected to stimulate new publications in the local media and on the media and civil society oriented web-site "3rd sector and 4th power". Targeting journalists, NGOs, activists and the general population, the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice.

Academy of Ukrainian Press, International Charity Foundation

\$12,811

Ukraine

To monitor the public's access to information during the 2006 parliamentary election campaign in Ukraine. After selecting 18 regional print media outlets using transparent criteria, the grantee will monitor pre-election coverage in six Ukrainian cities. The analysis will be distributed among media outlets, experts, election observation missions, and the general public. The project will measure print media's adherence to, and help prevent violations of, democratic standards in the run up to elections.

Ukrainian Newspaper Publishers Association

\$5,859

Ukraine

To monitor print media's conduct and the public's access to information about all parties and candidates during the 2006 parliamentary election campaign in Ukraine. The project will gather information on print media election campaign coverage including political advertisements, conflicts, and court cases. After the elections, the grantee will conduct three roundtables to discuss their findings and will publish their analysis in a handbook, which will be distributed among media outlets, experts, election observation missions, and the general public. The project will measure print media's adherence to, and help prevent violations of, democratic standards in the run up to elections.

Step by Step Foundation

\$5,000

Ukraine

To share effective social enterprise models developed for community schools. The grantee will gather best practices on social enterprises in community schools and present the results to school administrators and community leaders during an international conference. The proceedings of the conference will be published and distributed among a broad range of practitioners in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and other countries of Eastern Europe. Co-funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation and the International Renaissance Foundation, the project will introduce new methods for setting up and operating social enterprises at the community schools in small towns and rural areas.

Charitable Foundation Civil Initiatives Center

\$12,086

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To encourage voters in Zakarpatska oblast to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include printed materials, seminars, mobile information points, and monitoring of elections-law violations. Targeting pensioners, the disabled and the rural population in general, the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice. The project is co-funded by the Freedom House Citizen Participation in Elections Project.

Uspekh NGO**\$14,710****Ukraine (Donetsk Oblast)**

To encourage voters in Donetsk oblast to exercise their civic rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include printed materials, a PSA aired on regional TV stations, articles in print media, seminars, and youth theater productions. Targeting the rural population – especially first-time voters, pensioners, and other vulnerable groups - the program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice.

TORO Creative Center**\$2,610****Ukraine (Kirovograd Oblast)**

To encourage young voters in Kirovohrad to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct an innovative get-out-the-vote initiative including educating voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include student essay contests, interactive games, and printed materials. Targeting first- and second-year students, the program will ensure that young voters make an informed and deliberate choice.

Lviv Media-Club**\$2,650****Ukraine (Lvov Oblast)**

To encourage voters in Lviv oblast to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will produce and air a series of 12 radio PSAs and two weekly analytical radio programs including expert commentary and live discussion. The program will help ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice.

Initsium League of Crimean Tatar Lawyers**\$2,951****Ukraine (Crimean Autonomous Republic)**

To encourage voters in Crimea to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections. The grantee will conduct a get-out-the-vote initiative, which will also educate voters on new elections-related regulations. The initiative will include printed materials and theater performances explaining voting procedures, verification of voter lists, and Ukraine's new proportional representation election system. The program will ensure that voters make an informed and deliberate choice. The project is co-funded by the Freedom House Citizen Participation in Elections Project.

Foundation for Fair Justice**\$9,012****Ukraine**

To ensure observance of election regulations and prevent human rights violations during 2006 parliamentary and local elections in Ukraine by training judges. The grantee will also publish a set of training materials containing relevant legislation, and distribute them among courts. The project will improve judges' skills and help ensure fair enforcement of electoral laws.

Committee of Voters of Ukraine, All-Ukrainian public organization**\$49,500****Ukraine**

To ensure that the names on official voter lists accurately reflect the list of eligible voters for the March 2006 parliamentary and local elections in Ukraine. Together with other members of the "Chysti Vybyry" coalition, the grantee will conduct a nation-wide information campaign on how voters can verify their names on the official voters lists. The campaign will consist of TV and radio public service announcements, mass distribution of printed materials, media publications, a telephone hot line, and mobile education centers to reach the more remote.

Uzbekistan

Libra Consulting

\$4,625

Uzbekistan (Karakalpak Republic)

To introduce modern evaluation methods to government projects. The grantee has received in-depth training in evaluating development projects with prior Eurasia support, and will now pass these skills to government officials through training and direct assistance in conducting evaluations. By introducing project evaluation, the officials will gain the opportunity to promote more effective government spending.

Fergana Regional Artist Branch

\$12,362

Uzbekistan

To increase cross border cooperation among arts and culture institutions in the Ferghana Valley. Two professional arts organizations from the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan will work to raise public awareness and find new channels to bring Ferghana Valley artists' work to the world. The grantees will establish a central website for cultural groups in the Valley, organize a regional arts forum, and hold two roundtables in Osh and Ferghana with local and international NGOs and government officials, where they will discuss new means for regional cooperation and integration of the cultures and art of the peoples of the Ferghana Valley. They will also organize arts-specific management and marketing training for 40 representatives of arts groups from the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The project will promote mutual understanding and cooperation between those working in the arts and culture in the Ferghana Valley.

Appendix D

Non-U.S. Government and Co-funded Grants By Country and Strategic Objective October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Kazakhstan

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Open Budget Kazakhstan Phase III

To promote Kazakhstani citizens' involvement in budget drafting, implementation and monitoring processes the Eurasia Foundation launches one-year third phase of the Open Budget Initiatives program. Currently, access to budget information is improving however there is lack of public ability to impact budget processes. The next phase of this multi-year program project will focus on identifying tools of public monitoring and evaluation leading to more effective budget implementation as well as budget transparency, better public administration, and increased civil society participation in governance. This project is funded by the Norway Open Budget Program.

Fund for Assistance and Development TAN

\$13,500

Kazakhstan (Atyrau Oblast)

To promote open budgets and increase civic engagement in the monitoring of ecological programs, the grantee will train regional experts in applied budget analysis. The grantee will monitor and make recommendations on government budgets for ecological programs in Atyrau oblast. This project is financed by the Norway Open Budget, Part III.

Institute of State and Local Administration

\$6,132

Kazakhstan (Almaty City)

To ensure transparency in the budget process regarding rehabilitation programs for unemployed residents of the Enbekshikazakh district. The grantee will bring together local governments, civic organizations and active community members of the region to conduct open hearings and engage in budget program development. This project is financed by the Norway Open Budget, Part III.

Jhambyl Oblast Public Association "Center of Justice"

\$12,717

Kazakhstan (Jambyl Oblast)

To increase transparency of Kazakhstan regional government budgets by promoting civic engagement in budget monitoring on all levels. The grantee will establish a center to train representatives of non-governmental organizations and mass media from 10 Kazakhstan cities in applied budget analysis as a tool to provide sound advice in the budget monitoring process. This project is financed by the British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Public Association - Regional Center of New Information Technologies

\$2,848

Kazakhstan (North Kazakhstan)

To develop mechanisms to encourage public participation in the budget process, the grantee will initiate an information campaign to attract mass media, non-governmental organizations and government bodies to transparency in the budget process. The campaign includes the development of a Web page called 'Our Budget' and the creation of a citizen-based board in Petropavlovsk to promote civic engagement and facilitate discussion and draft recommendations on budget issues. This project is financed by the British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Danko Public Fund for Support of Youth and Women

\$2,543

Kyrgyzstan (Issyk-Kul Oblast)

To support the crafts industry in the city of Balykchy. The grantee will provide training to up to 15 artisans to increase the quality and diversity of their work as well as their competitiveness. The project participants will improve their knowledge of marketing, business planning and financial management, and they will learn new design and production techniques. The project is financed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).

Russia

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

Asia-Pacific School

\$13,610

Russia (Primorsky Krai)

The project is aimed to introduce and disseminate community school (CS) model in Primorsky krai for effective solution of schools' and local community problems. During the project's realization seminar-training for school administrations' representatives will be held, training sessions for teachers, pupils and parents will be conducted. As a result project target audience will increase knowledge about CS, CS model will be implemented and disseminated in 10 pilot schools of Primorsky krai. Schools - project participants will be networked as a basis of interregional network of CS in Russia. This project is funded by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Samara Youth Union

\$30,000

Russia (Orenburg Oblast, Penza Oblast, Samara Oblast, Tatarstan Republic, Ulyanovsk Oblast)

The realization of this project will allow for the creation of conditions for the popularization of community schools (CS) values, the clarification of CS ideologies, and the long-term dissemination of CS model; for the creation of an organization of local expert potential; and for the unification of efforts directed at the systematic and integrated development of the movement in the Privolzhsk Federal District. During the project's realization, a number of educational seminars will be conducted, a remote consulting service will be organized in order to answer questions related to CS models, and a brochure will be published in which the results of the previous years' work on CS programs in the five regions of the Privolzhsk Federal District will be described. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Educational Center, Invite

\$10,000

Russia (Arkhangelsk Oblast)

To create conditions for the development of cooperative relationships between individual citizens, schools, business representatives, and public and private organizations in order to solve social problems in the territory of the city of Severodvinsk. As a result of the project, young leaders, teachers, and parents will be prepared to head the development of community schools ably and conditions will be created to facilitate the formation of school foundations and school trustee committees. The activities and results of the project will be widely publicized through local mass media outlets. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Community of Handicapped Since Birth, Vozrozhdeniye

\$10,834

Russia (Altai Krai, Altai Republic, Kemerovo Oblast)

The project is aimed at youth activation by means of uniting the efforts of schools and the surrounding community members for the inclusion of children with handicaps in the educational process, which is an important condition of the democratization of schools in the three regions of the Siberian Federal District. During the course of the project's realization, a number of measures will be enacted, including: educational seminars for representatives of nine schools as well as the handicapped will be conducted; social micro-projects will be developed with the aid of school-participants; the release of methodological educational materials; and carrying out a final interregional meeting. During the course of the project's fulfillment, a partnership will emerge on both the regional and interregional levels. Additionally, the program aims to develop and to expand the Community Schools (CS) movement and to increase the professionalism of CS leaders with regard to working toward solving problems involving the young people of three regions of the Siberian Federal District. In turn, the young people should receive a real opportunity to obtain practical experience participating in the solving the problems of the local community. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Voronezh Regional Public Children's Organization "Iskra"

\$10,000

Russia (Voronezh Oblast)

To promote social partnership between the school and the local community and develop an effective fundraising mechanism for the school to solve local problems. The project will launch a program for voluntary school teams, "Youth Changes the World," which involves adolescents in identification and solution of social problems of the local community. Twenty schools from 10 districts of the region selected on a competitive basis will participate in the project. To ensure successful implementation of the project, 10 coordinators from among representatives of public and state organizations of the region's districts who are experienced in organizational and pedagogic activities will be trained at a seminar. The project will enable schools of the Voronezh oblast to improve their development quality and establish new democratic relations with local communities. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Chernogorsk School #4 Charitable Foundation, Vozrozhdenye

\$15,000

Russia (Khakass Republic)

To develop a cooperative network of community schools (CS) in the Republic of Khakasia. During the program, a consultation-methodology center will be created; seminars, training sessions, and on-the-job training will be conducted for specialists in CS; a magazine entitled CS Bulletin will be published; and a library, Everything about CS, will be created. As a result of the program, CS specialists will be able to address problems cooperatively across the Republic, and a foundation will be laid for the long-term development of inter-regional cooperation in the Republic of Khakasia and the Krasnoyarsk Region. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Akuna Matata, Youth Public Organization

\$20,000

Russia (Agino-Buryat Autonomous Oblast, Buryat Republic, Chita Oblast, Irkutsk Oblast, Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug)

To create conditions for the integrated coordination of schools working according to the community school (CS) model and the introduction and stable development of the CS model in the Baikal Region. Project activities will include a relay race of good deeds and a health march. Both activities are expected to attract a large number of students, teachers, parents, and members of the community. By forming an expert council on CS technologies, carrying out an Internet-based exhibit of social technologies, and creating an association of CS schools in the Baikal Region, the professional level of school specialists will be raised, the efficacy of CS technologies will be increased, and the integrated coordination of schools within the Baikal Region will be achieved. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Local Level Collaboration Center/ Krasnoyarsk Regional Community Organization

\$10,000

Russia (Krasnoyarsk Krai)

To create and support a unified Internet portal for the community schools (CS) movement in Russia. The site will contribute to the development of a coordinated system of Russian NGOs working to develop socially oriented education and CSs, with the goal of uniting efforts, coordinating joint activities, exchanging experiences, and expanding the distribution of information about the CS movement and the opportunities to participate in it. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Sochi NGO Edelweiss

\$15,000

Russia (Krasnodar Krai)

To develop the community school (CS) movement in southern Russia (Krasnodar and Stavropol Regions) through the use of resources from the CS Center in the city of Sochi and partner non-commercial organizations (NCOs) throughout Russia. The project will allow for the creation of a system of CS information-methodology centers in the south of Russia thanks to the extant program for the preparation of skilled personnel, the creation of a unified information field, and the inter-regional cooperation in the sphere of CS. As a result of the project, the information-methodological base of CS models will be expanded, a system of network coordination of CSs in the south of Russia

will be drawn up, and educational programs for educational specialists, teachers, and parents will be carried out. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services

\$21,968

Russia (Amur Oblast, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Kamchatka Oblast, Khabarovsk Krai, Magadan Oblast, Primorsky Krai, Sakhalin Oblast)

To preserve human capital in the Russian Far East (RFE) through cooperation among organizations operating in educational and labor markets. A conference devoted to job placement for young professionals will be organized. This conference will convene educational institutions, prospective employers and career agencies to review the experience of university career centers and to suggest a plan for developing an Information Exchange Network to disseminate best practices and promote partnerships between these stakeholders. The end goal of this project is to enable more young professionals to find work in the RFE labor markets. This project is funded by the Ford Foundation.

Resource Center of Community Schools

\$29,855

Russia (Omsk Oblast, Saratov Oblast)

To expand the community school (CS) model by deepening its conceptual and methodological base. During the project's realization a packet of instructional methodological material will be developed that will serve as the foundation for training representatives from educational institutions. These representatives will apply the knowledge gained from the training to carry out socially meaningful projects in their local communities, designed to find concrete solutions to problems in the territories. As a result of the program, a packet of instructional methodological material for CS activity will be created; 36 project participants will increase the general level of knowledge and skills with regard to social technologies that are used in the work of CSs and will broaden the experience of socially beneficial actions in 12 local communities; and no less than 3,500 people will take part personally in the actions, events and realization of the socially significant projects. This project is financed by the New Eurasia Foundation in Moscow.

Tajikistan

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

Economics Education and Research Consortium Inc/ EERC

\$12,766

Tajikistan (Dushanbe City, Sogd Oblast)

To strengthen the capacity of Tajikistani universities to conduct applied business and economics research. The grantee will organize intensive, high-quality research training activities, issue competitive fellowship grants, promote university-business applied research linkages, and create a network of university-based researchers. This grant is funded by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and is part of the larger Central Asia Applied Research Network project. This project is funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Zonal Society of deaf and blind persons and orphans

\$7,750

Tajikistan (Khatlon Oblast)

To decrease poverty among disabled people. The grantee obtained a derelict fish farm from the local government. This grant will buy 45,000 fry and fish feed, support a commercial fishing expert, and raise and process the fish. As a result, the NGO's members will gain a sustainable source of nutrition, and income from selling the fish. This grant is co-funded by the AES Corporation and the Government of Australia

Ukraine

1.3 Private Enterprise Development

LEaD: Local Economic Development

The Eurasia Foundation and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe launched a joint program aimed at stimulating economic development and employment opportunities in the depressed regions of Ukraine in order to reduce poverty and prevent human trafficking. The program is focused on: 1) spurring SME development at the regional level; 2) building business support infrastructure; and 3) creating conditions for the public-private dialogue at the regional level.

Zakarpattia Oblast Rural Tourism Development Center

\$9,450

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To generate new job opportunities and support rural tourist business development in the Zakarpatska oblast. The grantee will provide training, internships and individual consultations to unemployed individuals and existing rural tourism providers to help them diversify and market their services. The project will help create jobs, set up new businesses, and improve the profitability of existing tourism providers. This project is co-funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

LEaD: Local Economic Development II

The ultimate goal for the project is to stimulate economic development and employment opportunities in depressed regions. To accomplish this goal, a three-pronged approach will be used that aims to 1) spur SME development at the regional level, 2) build business support infrastructure, and 3) create conditions for the public-private dialogue at the regional level. This project is co-funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Tureurocenter

\$11,431

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To generate new job opportunities and develop rural tourist businesses in the Zakarpatska oblast. The grantee will mark a 30 km scenic trail covering three rural rayons of the oblast. The grantee will also provide trainings on how to be tourist guides. The project will improve existing tourist businesses' profitability and help create new businesses and jobs. This project is co-funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Yevropeysky Dom Charitable Foundation

\$11,106

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To develop rural tourism businesses in Zakarpatska Oblast. The grantee will train rural youth in rural tourism and crafts trades. The project will also design and publish a guide on Zakarpatska's tourism industry. The project will make existing tourist businesses more profitable and help create new businesses and jobs. This project is co-funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Panonia Society for Social and Cultural Development

\$6,823

Ukraine (Transcarpathian Oblast)

To introduce innovative business practices to craftsmen in rural Zakarpatska Oblast. The grantee will train craftsmen in traditional folk arts and crafts techniques, and assist them in improving and marketing their products. The project will also produce promotional materials. The project will help create new handicraft businesses in the region and improve their profitability. This project is funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Union of Entrepreneurs of Small and Medium Enterprises of Ukraine, Sumy branch

\$10,233

Ukraine (Sumy Oblast)

To introduce innovative agricultural practices to the unemployed in Sumy oblast's rural regions. The grantee will offer a comprehensive training package to out-of-work clients. The package will include formal instruction, internships at successful farms, master classes with recognized experts, and a manual of new agricultural producers. The project will provide new economic opportunities for residents of some of the oblast's depressed regions. The project is co-funded by OSCE under the "Local Economic Development in Rural Areas" initiative.

Donetsk Agrarian Development Public Organization

\$19,529

Ukraine (Donetsk Oblast)

To introduce new business practices to unemployed people in four rayons of the Donetsk oblast. The grantee will develop and adapt seven innovative new business models for working in rural areas. Using these models, the grantee will train people on how to start a new business, apply for grants and loans, and market their new businesses. Furthermore, the grantee will work with local government officials and state employment centers to use the models in an effort to diversify their local economies. The project will provide new economic opportunities for residents of some of the Donetsk oblast's most depressed regions. This project is co-funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.